



1932 - 2007
CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the
Irish Radio Transmitters Society
March/May 2007

IRTS Past Presidents who were presented with badges at the Jubilee Dinner



Leo Purcell EI6D



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Sean Nolan EI7CD



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Tom Rea EI2GP



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The views expressed in Echo Ireland do
not necessarily represent the views of the
Society or the Editor

Next deadline July 28th

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News Bulletins and Readers

| | | | |
|----------------|------|---------|------------------|
| Sunday | | | |
| Dublin | 1100 | 7.043 | SSB |
| Wicklow | 1130 | 3.680 | SSB (as Gaeilge) |
| Dublin | 1145 | 145.525 | FM |
| Dublin | 1200 | 3.650 | SSB |
| Tipperary | 2030 | 145.450 | FM |
| Dublin | 2130 | 145.525 | FM |
| Monday | | | |
| Cork | 2000 | 145.750 | FM |
| Limerick | 2000 | 145.725 | FM |
| Louth | 2000 | 145.675 | |
| Galway | 2000 | 145.625 | |
| Tuesday | | | |
| Waterford | 2130 | 145.650 | FM |

Aidan Foley EI5W

We regret to report the death of Aidan Folan, formerly EI5W during the first week of April. He lived at 48, Wainsfort Road, Terenure, Dublin 6W. Aidan lectured in Kevin Street College of Technology and was then involved with RTE Radio in mid 50's as first Sound and Balance Control officer, prior to moving to RTE Television Operations and he finished his career as Training Manager in RTE. He was also very involved with EBU committees. Aidan was the youngest brother of the late Martin Enda Folan, formerly EI6W, President of IRTS from 1958 to 1960. He was an uncle of Enda Folan EI7AXB. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family. May he rest in peace.

Brendan Murphy EI4FZ

We regret to report the death of Brendan Murphy EI4FZ of Tralee, Co. Kerry.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Ann and family. May he rest in peace.

IRTS Committee

Next Meeting

July 21st
Montague Hotel,
Portlaoise
1100

Volunteers Wanted

The Society is looking for a new editor for Echo Ireland. If you are interested, please contact any committee member.

Volunteers are needed for the radio news service. There is an immediate need for additional newsreaders to become part of a rota for the Sunday 2 metre news broadcasts from Dublin. Also required are people to join a rota for the HF news broadcasts on Sunday mornings. These can obviously be located anywhere in the country. Again, contact any committee member.

Silent Key - Michael Gallagher EI3CK

Michael Joseph Gallagher was born in Currane, Achill on September the 4th 1929.

Michael attended Currane National School from 1933 to 1940 and CBS national school Westport from 1940 to 1943. He studied in St. Jarleths College Tuam from 1943 to 1948 and came to Kiltegan in September 1948. He did all his seminary studies in Kiltegan and was ordained on April 10th 1955 in Carlow Cathedral by the bishop of Kildare and Leighlin.

Michael was appointed to Ogoja diocese in Nigeria. He was stationed in Lya-moyong where he was involved in the building of St. Brendans school. He also worked in Nkalagu and while stationed there he contracted TB meningitis and was invalided home to Ireland in 1966.

After two years of treatment and convalescence Michael took up a position in St Peter's in the Glasgow Archdiocese and ministered there from October 1968 to March 1969. He then moved to the diocese of Motherwell in Scotland and served in St Bride's Parish Cambuslang and St Leonard's in East Kilbride. From there he went to St David's parish, Airdrie where he served from 1984 until his retirement in September 2004.

Michael chose to retire to his beloved Achill but kept in close touch with Kiltegan seldom missing any of the functions that were held there. He was in regular touch with the Society house in Knock and socialised a lot with the priests of the archdiocese of Tuam, his home diocese.

Although he suffered from many health

problems on an ongoing basis, Micheal never allowed them to interfere unduly with his life, his ham radio, his driving or his eye for a bargain.

He began to feel unwell recently and was brought to Kiltegan from Knock. He was admitted to the nursing unit and shortly afterwards was moved to Naas hospital where he died on April the 23rd at 2.20pm in the presence of his niece, Grainne, his nephew Padraig and Fr. Gary Howley.

Michael is pre-deceased by his baby sister Nora and his brothers Denis and Patrick R.I.P..

He is survived by his sisters Mary and Sr. Kathleen MMM, by his brothers Eoin, Brendan and Terry and by his sisters-in-law Maureen, Diane, Joan and Mary. May he rest in peace.

Guest Speakers at the IRTS 75th Jubilee Dinner



Dave Sumner, K1ZZ
Secretary
International Amateur Radio Union



John Breen
Representing the Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources



Ole Garpestad, LA2RR
President Region One
International Amateur Radio Union



Angus Annan, MM1CCR
President
Radio Society of Great Britain



Dermot Nolan,
Commission for Communications
Regulation



Sean Nolan, EI7CD
Hon. Vice President IRTS
Master of Ceremonies

Irish Radio Transmitters Society 75th Annual General Meeting April 22nd 2006

The Irish Radio Transmitters Society's 75th Annual General Meeting was held over the weekend of April 21/22nd at the Vienna Woods Hotel in Glanmire, Cork.

This year, the AGM was organised by Region 5 of IRTS and being the 75th Jubilee of the Society, several international guests were invited.

Guests of the Society for the weekend were Dave Sumner K1ZZ who is secretary of the IARU and also chief executive officer of the ARRL, the US national Society. Dave was accompanied by his wife Linda KA1ZD.

Ole Garpestad LA2RR is President of Region 1 of the International Amateur Radio Union and he was accompanied by his wife Karin LA8UW.

Our neighbouring Society the Radio Society of Great Britain was represented by its President Angus Annan MM1CCR

John Breen EI7BV represented the Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources.

Our Regulator, the Commission for Communications Regulation was represented by Dermot Nolan and by Derek O'Reilly who deals with day to day experimenter licensing business. Derek was accompanied by his wife Veronique.

Roderic Mooney EI2P and his wife Kathleen were guests of the Society at the Jubilee Dinner.

The dinner was attended by 120 guests and a very enjoyable evening was had by all present.

Special badges had been commissioned for past Presidents and eight of the nine living past presidents were at the dinner to receive their badges.

They were Leo EI6D, Barney EI4BC, Sean EI7CD, Mike EI3DY, Tom EI2GP, Paul EI5DI, Dave EI4BZ and Sean EI7CD.

Jim Ryan EI3DP could not attend due to a family wedding in the UK.

Sunday's Annual General Meeting was well attended and a highlight of the meeting was the very informative question and answer session conducted by IARU Secretary Dave Sumner K1ZZ and Region One President Ole Garpestad LA2RR.

The following new committee was elected:

President: Fr. Finbarr Buckley EI1CS,

Vice President: Paul Martin EI2CA

Committee members: Pat EI2HX, Thos EI2JD, Joe EI3IX, Dave EI4BZ, Sean EI4GK, Peter EI4HX, Paul EI5DI, Sean EI7CD, John EI7IG, Seamus EI8BP and Brian EI8IU.

The Rally on Sunday was well attended and all the traders reported a successful days trading.

The Vienna Woods again proved an excellent venue for the weekend activities and we would like to thank the traders and patrons who turned up to make it such a success.

Shannon Basin Radio Club EI2SBC/EI3Z



Brian EI8IU with junior op James operating at the Elphin Windmill.

At the recent meeting in Roscommon Noel EI6HW presented the Shannon Basin Sprint Trophies for the 2006 Sprint to the following operators:

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Lough Ree Shield (CW) | EI8IU Brian, |
| Lough Allen Shield (SSB) | EI3HA Tony. |
| Lough Derg Shield (SWL) | David EI1512. |

The club would like to thank everyone for their participation in the Shannon Basin Sprint and look forward to seeing you all at the famous Shannon Basin Barbeque in Ballinasloe during the SSB field day weekend over the first weekend in September.

The club took part in the Mills On The Air weekend on the 12/13th of May.

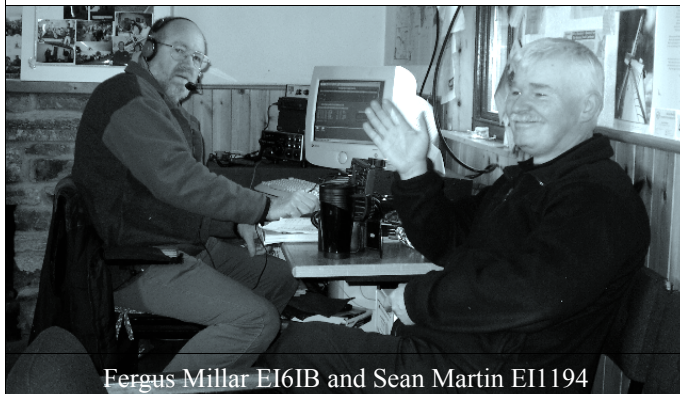
The call sign used was EI2EWM and the station was at the site of a fully working 18th century windmill in Elphin Co. Roscommon.

Operators included Sean EI1194, Anthony EI1151, Noel EI6HW, Fergus EI6IB and Brian EI8IU.

Although band conditions were poor several contacts were made with other Mill stations across G land and one in PA. Sincere thanks go to the staff at the mill for looking after us with refreshments.

The club meets in The Royal Hotel in Roscommon Town on the first Wednesday of the month at 2030.

Further details from Noel EI6HW or Pat EI9HX or on the IRTS website www.irts.ie under Clubs



Fergus Millar EI6IB and Sean Martin EI1194

Pictures from the IRTS 75th Jubilee Dinner



Seamus EI8EPB and Revere EI9EYB



Jeff Smith MI0AEX



Jane Smith



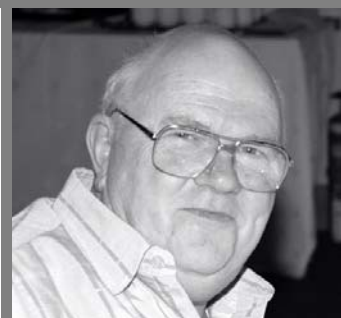
Stephen EI6JA



Derek O'Reilly, ComReg



John EI6AK



Jim EI8GS



Peter EI7CC



Linda KA1ZD



Karin LA8UW



Joe EI7GW



Roderic Mooney EI2P and XYL Kathleen



Rob G3XFD/EI7IW



John EI2GN



Nicki EI9JF



Neil EI3JE



John EI8IR



Derek EI7CHB



HF Happenings

with Dave Deane EI9FBB

Welcome to another edition of 'HF Happenings' and unfortunately this being a slightly briefer issue than usual due to work commitments, holidays etc. so apologies to all.

Now, on to the recent DXpedition reviews.

Swain's Island.

The much awaited DXpedition to DXCC's newest entity, Swain's Island, aired the N8S callsign from April 3rd until April 15th 2007. This multi-national team led by Hrane, YT1AD, set a new world record logging some 117,205 QSOs, beating the previous record holder K1B by some 22,078 QSOs.

Team members were: K1LZ - Krassimir D Petkov, N6TQS - Doug Faunt, RK3AD - Eugene Kuleshov, RA3AUU - Igor Booklan, SV2BFN - Vangelis Gekas, K6SRZ - Alan Eshleman, YU7NU - Maden Bogdanov, YZ7AA - Stevan Stepanov, YZ1BX - Velimir Djeric, UR0MC - Roman Tkacenko, UA4HOX - Aleksej Romanov, RU4SU - Viktor Vasiljenko, YU1AU - Miki Markovic, JT1CO - Chuck Chadraawal, and Z32ZM - Mome Dimovski, so congratulations to all the team and to all who worked this newest entity.

BS7H.

2 weeks after the N8S team went QRT, CQ magazines joint number 1 entity, was also back on the air after more than 10 years of silence. This was of course the BS7H team, operating from probably the most extreme of entities to-date. Scarborough Reef was QRV from 29th April until 6th May 2007. Despite being exposed to temperatures in excess of 45 degrees and the severe danger aspects from this type of operation, this multi national team still managed to log some 45,820 QSOs.

17,884 unique calls made it through, giving this a much higher than normal percentage rate of 39%.

The operators were: 9V1YC, OH2BH, I8NHJ, DL3MBG, W6RGG, ND2T, AA4NN, K4UJ, N6MZ, K9AJ, BV6HJ, BA1HAM, BA1RB, BA4RF, BA4RC & BA1AAX.

Out of the 29 'EI' QSO's, 18 'EI' unique callsigns made it into their log. This operation has already been approved by ARRL for DXCC credit and is to be QSLed via KU9C who says that the

QSLing process will begin sometime in early July.

For anyone that is unfamiliar with the reef, take a look at ' www.scarboroughreef.com ' and take a look at the photo section.

Agalega & St.Brandon.

At time of writing, the 3B6 Polish DXpedition team are QRV from St. Brandon signing 3B7SP. Although the team had initially planned to operate from St.

Agalega (3B6) the team had to divert enroute to 3B7 due to damage to their vessel. The catamaran suffered damage to both sails and lost an engine. A volcanic eruption on Reunion also caused their boat to be "badly shaken," and flooded, damaging the navigation gear and one of the engines and possibly the second one too. They did send out a distress call over ham radio and a plane came to locate their exact position and a fishing boat, the Covadis, was sent to tow them to safety.

All these unexpected problems caused the Polish team to revise their plan and divert some 800 Kms North of 3B6 and head for St. Brandon, where they are now.

The team plan to remain here for the duration of the operation which is expected to go QRT on the 20th June.

Due to limited resources there, their on-line log will be up-loaded after the operation and posted on their web-page.

SP9SX is the QSL manager for this one.

Montenegro.

The following is an extract taken directly from the pages of 'The Daily DX' with the kind permission of Bernie, W3UR : Montenegro finally has a callsign prefix block. Montenegro gained independence in late June 2006 and had been using the following prefixes : 4O3, 4O6, YT3, YT6, YZ3 & YZ6.

The International Telecommunications Union did not want to give the new country a new prefix and required the states of Montenegro and Serbia to agree upon one or two prefixes of the five (4N, 4O, YT, YU, YZ) from the former Serbia/Montenegro country.

On May 11th an agreement was made and the ITU now lists the 4O (Four Oscar) prefix as belonging to Montenegro so Montenegro can use 4O0 (Four Oscar Zero) through 4O9 (Four Oscar Nine). Serbia will continue to use the YT and

YU prefixes. This will include all call areas (0-9) for each.

However the 4N and YZ prefixes have been taken away and given back to the ITU for future use to another nation.

This was confirmed by a spokesman from the ITU's Radio Communications Sector. When asked exactly when the two nations need to complete this change, a response of 'as soon as possible' was given.

So there may be a short period of time to complete the switch over.

Those of you using computerized logging programs may update with the following : Serbia: YT0, YT1-YT9, YU0, YU1-YU9 Montenegro: 4O0, 4O1 to 4O9

Ducie Island.

Plans are underway for another operation from DXCC entity #335, Ducie Island.

A multi-national team will be signing VP6DX in mid February 2008.

The schedule at the moment is for the team to depart by boat on Feb. 6th from Mangareva, French Polynesia. Plans are to make a brief stop on Pitcairn Island enroute and to be QRV from here for a few hours.

This team will be led by DL6LAU, Carsten and co-led by K3NA.

Other team members currently signed on include : DL3DXX, DL8LAS, OH2BH, WA6CDR & K1LZ.

The remaining operators will be announced closer to the time. As details are still fairly limited on this one, keep an eye on www.vp6dx.com for any updates.

Clipperton Island.

Another forthcoming DXpedition which should attract a lot of attention was announced at this year's Dayton event.

However, details are still unsure at this early stage but plans are underway for another operation to Clipperton, (FO0). N6OX is the DXpedition leader for this one and details should be more readily available for the next edition.

Early indications are that this one will take place sometime towards the end of February 2008 where a 12 to 14 day operation is scheduled.

More on this one closer to the time.

Sovereign Military Order of Malta.

Remember the recent 1A4A operation from S.M.O.M?? Good news is that this one will be activated again from July 12th to 22nd signing regular call 1A0KM.

This operation is being organized by IK0FVC, who is well known of course from his operations from the Vatican, HV0A.

This one can be QSLed to IK0FTA.

Botswana.

Another one taking place this July is the African DX Safari team DXpedition to A2, Botswana. The team have already received their licenses and consist of: ZS6JR-A25DW, K5LBU-A25CF, W5KDJ-A25KDJ, W5SL-A25SL, GM3OOK-A25OOK, WA8QFE-A25LT, ZS6OB-A25OB, ZS6WB-A25HL & ZS6BUN-A25BUN.

All these calls can be QSLed to K5LBU. This operation is being arranged by the same people that assisted in the recent activation of AFRI 75 – the IRTS 75th Jubilee DXpedition to Swaziland (3DA0) featured elsewhere in this issue. If the same trends are followed here, then this A2 operation will be yet another successful event.

Special Event.

Special event station EW905B will be QRV by members of the Borisov ARC with activity through the end of November in celebration of the 905th anniversary of the city of Borisov. QSL via EW2EO.

Band Reports.

Over the past period, it is quite easy for one to see that band conditions are vastly improving and that all bands are opening regularly.

Again, I stress, that one does not need 'Big Gun' stations to work the DX, that 100W stations into simple wire antennas can do the trick.

Here is my log extract from the past period, using mostly 400W into an Imax vertical antenna:

10m logged ZA/UT7DW, UA9KL, C31JS, 5N8NDP, HV0A, 4L4WW, VY2RO, MM0TFU, TR8CA, 9H1BW, CX7AF, ZP6LMR, L44DX, ZS9X, EA9PY & 6W/IZ2DPX while **12M** worked 5B4AIF, T77M, FY/G3TXF, LX0SAR, PZ5RA, EA6AFA, HV0A, PY2OMS, CN8IG, 5N8DNP, 3XD2Z, EA9EU, J5UAP, A22/JA4ATV, ZS6ME, TR8CA, J28JA & WP4U.

Using a 40M windom antenna for the following bands logged these **15m** contacts; P3B, 5H3VMB, 3B8MM, TR8CA, 8P9NX, 7Z1UG, 3DA0PM, ST2M, VK3HGN, 9U9Z, EX2M, 9J2BO, D60VB & J28JA.

17m netted FM5AA, ZA/UT7DW, YN2N, HP3EFS, TZ/TU5GV, MU0FAL,

GJ0KYZ, 5H3RK, C31JM, HV0A, TF/G4EDG/P, 9Q1D, 7X5ST, J88DR, 9U0VB, A71EM, HK1X, FS/K9EL, JT1Y, VQ9LA, BX5AA, XU7MDY, ZD7VC, 7Q7VB, KG4JB, ZS6BAF, SU9HP, ZP6CW, DU1EIB, DS1JFY, 9V1YC, HC1MD, OD5NH, VK4KDD, PZ5RA, C56YK & VP2MRD.

20m worked the following; OX/NA1SA, BS7H, 4O6T, H44MK, ZS6DXB, 3DA0AM, HV0A, VO1TA, CE3PG, HS1CKC, UA0SJ, JW1MFA, BA5XA & 7Q7MT.

Concentrating mostly on **30m** this period netted; ZB2FK, ZF2AH, 8P9NX, D60VB, 9M4SDX, PJ5NA, CO8LY, V25OP, HH4/K4QD, 4Z4BS, VP9/AA1AC, 9N7JO, OH0B, OY3QN, VR2BG, 4K9W, 8J3YAGI, UK8AJ, 6W1SE, HP1WW, 3XD2Z, NP3CW, LU7DN, 9H3RZ, HV0A, TF/G4EDG & HR2DX.

40m worked 3A/ON6DP/P, VR2MY, SU1KM, YA/LY1Y, 9N7JO, 9M4SDX, N8S, XU7DZG, VK6WC, YN2N, OX/NA1SA, 9M8Z, V25OP, 3DA0RH, A52AM, 3B7SP, YK1BA, ZC4LI, P43A, VP2VW, ZS4U, 5H3EE, UK8OK, HV0A, DU1HBC, JW/F8DVD, TI4CF, YY4ALP, J75RZ, EK8WA, HZ1IK, 5X1GS, VU2NKS & XE1REM.

Finally **80m** worked P3B, 7X5JF, C31JS, MU0FAL, RV9JN, KP2AD, 4Z5FL/M, HR2DX, ZS6CCY, A52AM, OX3KQ, NE1B & GB100T.

I'd like to welcome **Charlie, GI4FUE** and to personally thank him for his log extract from the last period. It's nice to see how conditions are that little bit further up north. Using an Icom IC 756 Pro, 400w into an A3S logged the following **10m** contacts; LW9DA, 3XM6JR & D44AC giving him 3 new band slots.

15m logged KD4Z, 3DA0PM, 9J2BO, VP8KF, J88DR, VO1TA & ZS6AAA while **20m** netted FY/G3SXW, VP9KF, 6W1SE, 3V8BB, LU7HN, VY2TT, CN8NK, BS7H, T77NM, 9Y4D, HV0A, HR2DMR, HH2YFD, OX/NA1SA, ST2A, J5UTM, JA7DLE, JW0HS, 3DA0PB, ZS6AAA, J88DR, 9M6XRO, 7Q7BP, TC0DX, ZB2EO & R1AND (Ant.) Using a 30M dipole logged;

HV0A, VP2ERV, ZA/Z35M, TF/G4ELZ/P, J88DR, 8P9NX, NP3CW, J5UTM, RZ0AF, OX/NA1SA, 3XD2Z, ZF2AH, YN4SU, YV1NX, 7Q7VB, MD0CCE & 5R8VB.

Using a Hi-Gain vertical antenna logged these **40m** contacts; 5H3EE, LR2F, C6AWL, UA9CLB, C4I, VP5/KN6Y, OY1CT, HZ1A, P33W, 4Z4DX, 4L2M, PY7RP, ZF1A, WC1M, 4M5DX,

3V8BB, FS5HL, WP3UX, TF/G4EDG/P, VP5/W5CW, C6AGN, TI4CF, 9V1PC, VP2VW, SU8DLH, 5T3TN, J88DR, ZL6QH, VK2NU & V25XK while **80m** netted GB100T, LX9DX, MU0FAL, LY2OO, A52AM, VP5/PY2XB, MJ/K8PT, VK6HD, V25XF, ZC4LI, VE1ZZ, TC0DX, PJ2/WE9V, ZF2UL & VP2VW.

17m logged MU0FAL, 3DA0GI & TC0DX again, 3 new band slots.

Using 5 Elements on **6m** logged 9H4DX, EA9IB, EA6SX & CT1BOL.

Nicky, EI9JF, using a FT2000 into a 4 element SteppIR worked the following on **10Mm**; 3XM6JR, EA6AZ, RA2FT, DF6QC (eu-127), LX1AP, VP2ERV & VP8LP while **12m** netted 9X0VB, FY/G3TXF/P, 3XM6JR, EA9BW, CT2FQ, J5UAP, KP2AD, ZP5VIA & VP8LP.

15m worked 3B7SP, 9X0VB, C33PP, HC2SL, CX7CO, CP6XE, 7P6DX & KH3CQ. **17m** worked 9X0VB, XE3ARB, 3B7SP, JA1KJW, VR2PX, YN2N, HP3EFS, 3XY5M, A52AM, FY1FL, J5UAP, VP2ERV, N8S, 9U0VB, 9Q1D, 9V1RA, BS7H, 5T5JA & LU3CQ while on **20m** he logged 5W0QS, XE1FLY, A92GR, A52AM, 6Y5PA, 3XM6JR, HV0A, JA3AOP, KH7F, XU7TZG, SV2ASP/A, JT1BH, BV4FH, V63J, BS7H, D44AC, OX3XR, N8S, 3B7SP, XF3PAS, R1FJT, HH2FYD, CP6XE & J88DR.

Same antenna also worked the following on **6m**, HV0A, EA6AZ & FY1FL. Using 2 elements on **30m** logged 3B7SP, HP2AT, BA6QH, 9X0VB, ZL7/KH0PR, XE1ARB, CO6XE, 9K2MU, TU2/F5LDY, 9M4SDX, IS0ILP, 6Y5WJ, ST2R, KL7HBK, N8S, VK7GK, CN8YR, 9M2/PG5M, BS7H, FS/K9EL, 9U0VB, JT1BH, PY2WC, DS4FKX, LU3CQ, KP4TF, 8P9NX & R1FJT.

Also using 2 elements on **40m** NETTED 3B7SP, YN2N, GB100T, A52AM, VP5/KN6Y, PY2WC, CO2NB, BS7H, 5B4AHY, 6Y5WJ, VP2VQ, 6F7HA, LU3JVO, N8S, 9M4SDX, EY7AF, ST2R, OX3XR, 9Y4D, 3B9/G3TXF, 9Y4NW, PJ4LS & XE1VVD.

Using a wire antenna for **80m** worked C31JM, GB100T, HV0A, HB0/DL1GDS, 9K2MU, EA6AZ & TF3SG.

Declan, EI9FVB has again been busy chasing some Special event stations and prefixes while giving out some points during the contests.

Running an Icom IC756 PRO 2 into an IMAX 2000 vertical worked OZ4NA, AO5GL, PA3FAO, ON7GB, F5MPK & SM5INC all on **10m** FM while on SSB

(Continued on page 25)

AFRI75

IRTS 75th Jubilee DXpedition 2007.



One of the events to celebrate the 75th jubilee of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society was a proposed DX-pedition to Africa.

During early 2006, several options were examined by a team led by IRTS Vice President and P.R.O. Paul Marin EI2CA. They eventually settled on a trip to Swaziland and the team was finalised as follows:

Paul EI2CA, Peter EI7CC, Aidan EI8CE, David EI4DJ/GI4FUM, Rory EI4DJB, Brendan EI3GV, Pete GI4VIV and Hal ZS6WB.

Final testing of the equipment and antennas for the expedition has taken place in Swaziland and South Africa in early March and signal reports back re in EI were excellent. Irish stations with 100 watts and simple wire antenna were

worked with ease on 20 and 17 metres. This was great news and the team left for Africa confident that they would work well into EI.

By Thursday 15th March 2007 the team was up and running, with their call signs appearing on the DX cluster on 17m, 20m and 30m.

The first report on the website was made on Friday 16th March at 0930 local time in Hawane, Swaziland, when they reported that the team was fully assembled having arrived via various routes. All antennas were up and being tested. During testing the first EI worked was Dave EI3IO and the first GI was Dick GI3OQR. They were also QRV on EME on 144.112 as 3DA0HL and working contacts. The first contact was with DL8GP.

A DXpedition website was set up on the IRTS site by Joe EI7GY and it was planned to upload the logs regularly to the Online Log search page. Contact was made late on the night of March 16th night on 20m with the President of the Society, Finbarr, EI1CS who was using the Jubilee call sign EI75IRTS. Greetings were exchanged between EI and Swaziland.

They were QRV on 2m (EME), 15m, 17m, 20m, 40m and 80m and Swaziland generated a lot of interest with pile-ups developing very quickly. Some EI/GI

were worked with good signals.

The report on Sunday 18 March stated that conditions were excellent on the bands on St. Patrick's Day and great pile ups were worked on many HF bands including 10m. They were delighted to get lots of EIs/GIs in the logs. They called specifically for EI/GI on a regular basis. HAL 3DA0HL was very pleased with EME 2m results, he had worked 35 stations in 14 DXCC entities in 2 days.

They hosted a great St. Patrick's Day party in Hawane in the evening. The President of the Radio Society of Swaziland, Roy 3DA1CD, was a guest at the party.



Rory 3DA0RH (EI4DJB)

Unfortunately they had to go QRT for longer than planned on St Patrick's evening. They intended working LF but due to a severe thunderstorm which lasted for 5 hours they had to remain QRT. They had early morning openings to Europe and US on 80m but so far had only worked EI7M during the scheduled operation this Sunday morning.

The report from Hawane on Monday 19th March 2007 was as follows:



Pete 3DA0GI (GI4VIV)



David 3DA0DJ (GI4FUM / EI4DJ)



Peter 3DA0PB (EI7CC), watched closely by Paul EI2CA and Brendan EI3GV

This morning around 04:00 UTC there was excellent propagation to North America on 80m (where were using SSB) and 40m (we were on CW). Many stations were worked with good signals.

The number of EIs/GIs in the logs is increasing all the time. We have been operating up to three stations simultaneously during the day when the bands above 20m are open.

We are experiencing some problems with the data mode station. We are working on a solution and hope to be on air by mid week.

Operations continued on Tuesday 20th March with excellent openings in the morning on 40m SSB to W/VE around 04:00 UTC. Also strong Stateside signals were worked on 80m CW.

They were QRV on 160m but suffered from very bad QRN. Mains power was lost all day yesterday but operations were possible using a generator for the afternoon and evening sessions on HF.



Aidan EI8CE/3DA0AM

Wednesday 21 March 2007

On Wednesday they reported great condx on 40m in the morning to west coast Stateside, Canada and Central America. Also last night to JA. 80m SSB proved more difficult, with high noise levels.

There were 17m and 20m openings to JA around 06:30 UTC.

They had an excellent meeting with Beki, the coordinator for the Scout project, Thirst for Life programme. Excess QSL monies will be used to support some elements of this programme.

Thursday 22 March 2007

Thursdays report was again very positive with news that they were QRV on 10m and 12m during the middle of the day on Monday and made a number of contacts with good signal reports. Hal, 3DA0HL, has had a good day on EME 2m including contacts in England and Asiatic Russia.

Propagation on 80m and 40m was not as good last night as in previous nights.

Rhy, ZS6DXB and Andy, 3DA0TM joined the team for the WPX contest over the weekend. Daniel, ZS6JR, our technical director who had been on site all week, will also join the team for the contest.

EI4DQ was worked on on 2m EME on Saturday which gave them EI on all bands except 160m. They were hoping to get EI on 160m in the WPX contest. They were also QRV on PSK31 and made many QSO's especially on the WARC bands.

There was a great opening on 10m into Europe during the contest. Many EIs and GIs were worked.

Sunday was the last days of operations by the DXpedition and they reported that they had excellent openings on both 28 and 21 MHz on Saturday to Europe from around 12:00 UTC. Hal made a fabulous 97 QSOs on 2m EME.

The group extends their thanks to everybody who chased them and they hope they gave you a new country on a new band or mode.

This expedition was a celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Irish Radio



Laying out the radials

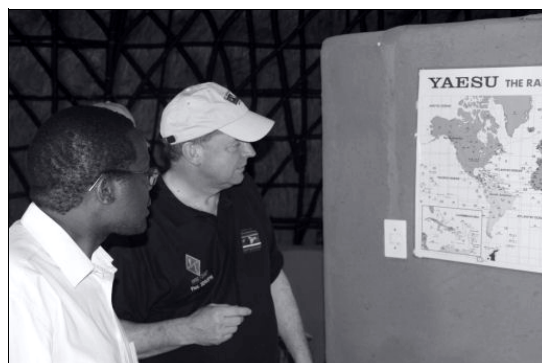
Transmitters Society in 1932. Their hope is that they put out a signal that our founding fathers would be proud of, though, no doubt, they would have been surprised at some of the frequencies and modes.



Working on one of the EME antennas

They send special thanks to the authorities in Swaziland who have been most helpful and also to the management and staff at the Hawane Resort. Richard and his team have looked after them so well.

Finally, sincere thanks to Frosty and Daniel of African DxSafaris. Daniel, ZS6JR, was with the team 24 hours a day. He set up a spectacular station for them and he worked so hard to ensure that everything worked smoothly.



Mr Austin M. Mgabhi, Swazi Telecom with Paul



The Appeal of QRP

by

Tony Breathnach, EI5EM

At the recent AGM in Cork, the topic of QRP (low power) operation in was discussed briefly. As an avid QRP operator, I decided to explain the appeal of QRP for me and perhaps encourage operators to turn down the wick on their rigs and give QRP a try.

Until recently, QRP power in Europe was considered 3 Watts or less and 10 Watts in North America (some cynics might say that anything less than a Kilowatt is relative QRP in USA). However, some years ago a 5-Watt limit on CW and 10 Watts per on ssb was accepted universally.



Bosca 40 - Homebrew 40m Transceiver by EI5EM

Surprisingly, a 5-Watt signal will only be



30m QRP homebrew transceiver

about two S-points down on a 100-Watt signal, under identical working conditions. Operating QRP under ideal band conditions is not a great problem. However, when band conditions are poor, the 13db difference between the two power levels becomes more apparent. This is when the operating skills at both ends of a QRP QSO are tested. Completing such contacts is very rewarding. At this point, I must salute the many excellent operators who take the trouble to separate the lower QRP signals from the 59+ ones. It should also be noted that we radio amateurs are required to use the minimum power necessary to conduct a QSO.

Most QRP rigs draw less than one Ampere at 12 Volts. Consequently, QRP radio equipment and PSUs are quite light and compact. Portable battery operation also becomes an option. QRP rigs are also more environmentally friendly, as much less QRM, RF pollution and waste of energy is caused at QRP power levels.

Like many other QRP operators, I am also interested in constructing equipment. Components for QRP transmitters are relatively inexpensive. There are some wonderful ICs available for building receivers. Many of the output transistors

mass-produced for CB radios work well in QRP transmitters and cost only a few Euro each. Contrast that with the cost of replacing a matched pair of final transistors in a 100-Watt rig! Blowing the final transistor in a QRP rig may be inconvenient but not expensive.

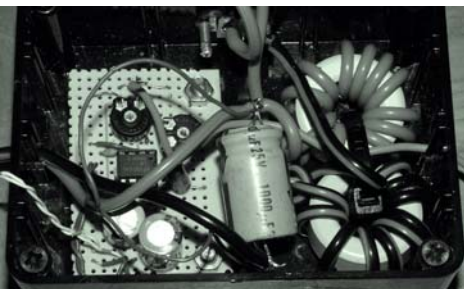
There are many QRP books on the ARRL and RSGB websites containing lots of technical ideas and circuit diagrams. The G-QRP Club deserves special mention. Annual membership is only €10. The QRP ARCI Club in the USA is also worthy of note. These clubs each publish a quarterly magazine crammed with information and circuits and also carry advertisements for the specialist QRP kit suppliers.

For those who feel that they are not competent enough to build equipment from their own or other designs, there are plenty of commercial kit suppliers out there. Elecraft, Small Wonder Labs, Ten Tec and Oak Hills Research are just four worthy of mention. They each offer good email technical support to kit builders.

For the majority of QRP enthusiasts, CW is the preferred mode of operation. This is partly due to the fact that building of transmitters for CW is less complicated than one for ssb, as no modulation circuitry is required. However, that is not the only reason. A weak CW signal is also much easier to copy than a weak phone signal. CW is a far more reliable

and efficient means of communication under difficult band conditions than ssb, and therefore suited to QRP.

Try this experiment. After all, you are an experimenter, aren't you? Next time you are using 100 Watts in a QSO, why not



reduce power to 5 Watts for the next over and see what comment, if any, you receive from the other station.

For me, there is nothing in amateur radio to compare to the thrill of hearing my own call-sign coming back to me in CW as a result of a CQ call. This is further enhanced when the equipment is home brewed. That, in essence, is the appeal of QRP operation for me.

I will finish by quoting the thirteenth century Franciscan philosopher William of Ockham; "It is vanity to do with more when less will do." Are there any vain operators out there?

The Elecraft KX1



The Eton E5 Portable Receiver.

Reviewed by Peter Mac Dougall, EI299/G7VEW

I bought a very nice little receiver at Easter. The price of Sony products seem to have gone through the roof lately, (especially in Ireland with two rates of 'foreign exchange' to cope with,) so this is a great alternative.

The Eton E5 is about 6.5" x 4" and just over an inch thick, a really compact set for holidays or travel and it is VERY economical as it recharges it's AA size batteries when powered by the (included) PSU.



Unlike many small short-wave receivers it covers a comprehensive spectrum from longwave to 29999kHz with no gaps and has stereo FM (via the included high quality earbuds.).

It also has SSB, which is easy to resolve by a fine tuning wheel at the side. I have other little receivers which have now seen better days but this set has a genuine tuning 'wheel' as well as the common 'up & down' buttons and, according to the helpful manual there are 700 programmable preset memories!

I played with the receiver briefly while in the North West of England, deciding to really put it through some comparison tests at the West of Ireland QTH. I'm placing several receivers side-by-side and only using their own telescopic antennas.

The first good point was the well-lit and helpful display. The keys also light up and, wait for it light shines through the external antenna socket at the side - honest!

The first disappointment was no RDS on FM but the similar sized *Roberts R9921* does that for me.

There is no 'Synchronous Detection' but the veteran *Sony 2001D* (incidentally four times the size) gives me that, if I need it.

My longwave test signal is the intermittent carrier on 279 from the Isle of Man and my medium wave tests are Manx Radio on 1368 and Magic/Red Rose on 999 kHz, all pretty difficult on any set-up here. The new Eton was the only one to hear all 3 and when I tuned around the shortwave broadcast bands it picked up stations that could only be heard on my main communications receiver with an external longwire aerial.

The sideband reception was to as high a standard as the big Sony, especially on the maritime and aeronautical frequencies where conditions are more stable than the amateur bands. Even so, European amateurs came in very well during daylight and North Americans were copied easily at night.

I think I have misread the manual on my initial setup for the date and time. I cannot get the 'day-of-the-week function to display correctly but that doesn't matter too much, I only drink at Christmas so I know what day it is!

24 different time zones are equally unimportant to me and I have only filled 200 memories on my *Drake R8A* during 14 years of use so the Eton's 700 should last me a lifetime!

The Eton E5 audio is impressive for such a small unit, maybe the ever-so-slightly concave speaker grill has something to do with it?

I'll also find a use for the line-out socket, it will be doing well to beat the Sony for recording radio shows.

I am still experimenting with the set. Old die-hards like me often shun the manual which is a mistake with this set and incidentally, the book gives one of the best '*Introductions To Shortwave Listening*' that I have ever read. Having said that, I did need to concentrate just to interpret the meanings of some functions and I find the memory *setting and retrieving* a bit of a chore. I'm afraid I got complacent with familiarity, using other sets but this little gem is worth the steep learning curve and, as a portable (except for lack of RDS) it is becoming my favourite.

Eton provide a long 'hank' of antenna wire terminating in a mini-jack with a 'curtain-clip' at the other end. I'd guess this is a boon to regular hotel visitors but I found that the telescopic antenna was perfectly adequate for normal use here, both indoors and outside.

My excuse for buying the Eton E5 was subtle. A 'replacement' for the XYL's *Grundig Yacht Boy 206*, in my opinion – the best small analogue-dial set, – but she hasn't got her hands on the Eton yet!

I'd recommend this receiver to anyone wanting a good start in the SWL hobby and to seasoned DXers for portable operations. It doesn't cost a fortune and it does everything it's supposed to do very well indeed

It really is a fine little set and is available from Stewarts Radio, Blackpool, Lancashire, Nevada K Ltd. and the usual American suppliers by mail order.

The Eton is listed at Stg£89.95 on www.nevadaradio.co.uk

Peter Mac Dougall, EI299/G7VEW



Portable radios on test at the EI299/G7VEW Shack

80 Metre Counties 2007 Contest Results

The new year got off to a flying start with the 80m Counties Contest.

The contest saw the first airing of EI75IRTS with IRTS President Finbar EI1CS on the mike.

There was a fantastic turn-out on the day with all EI counties being activated with the exception of Monaghan and Sligo.

EI2JD, Thos had the highest QSO count with 107 QSOs, and several stations managed to work 28 counties, no mean feat on both counts!

The quality of the logs varied, EI5DI certainly made my job easier! Unfortunately some were poor, and one log didn't even have the operators call sign on it. (I knew who it was so he will be getting a cert). Speaking of which, the Certificates of Participation are nearing completion stage and should be in the sent out shortly.

So, the complete list of stations who sent in their logs ON TIME are as follows:

Mixed Mode

| | Station | Points | QSOs | Counties | QTH |
|-----|---------|--------|------|----------|-----|
| 1. | EI5FK | 9912 | 99 | 28 | CK |
| 2. | EI2BB | 9308 | 103 | 26 | LS |
| 3. | GI0RTN | 9045 | 104 | 27 | AM |
| 4. | EI2CA | 8996 | 100 | 26 | MH |
| 5. | EI4BZ | 8268 | 77 | 26 | CK |
| 6. | EI8IU | 8034 | 87 | 26 | LM |
| 7. | EI0CZ | 6425 | 71 | 25 | CE |
| 8. | EI7GY | 5725 | 64 | 25 | DD |
| 9. | EI6GF | 5410 | 58 | 22 | WX |
| 10. | EI8DL | 3255 | 41 | 21 | LM |
| 11. | GI4SRQ | 1989 | 33 | 17 | AH |
| 12. | EI5EM | 1496 | 22 | 17 | DD |
| 13. | EI8FI | 650 | 17 | 10 | KY |
| 14. | EI8JF | 145 | 8 | 5 | DL |

SSB

| | | | | | |
|-----|----------|------|-----|----|----|
| 1. | EI9HX | 9240 | 93 | 28 | RN |
| 2. | EI3GRB | 9100 | 91 | 28 | CE |
| 3. | EI2JD | 8883 | 107 | 27 | LH |
| 4. | EI7CD | 8397 | 89 | 27 | DD |
| 5. | EI3GDB | 7202 | 76 | 26 | LK |
| 6. | EI75IRTS | 7020 | 71 | 27 | CK |
| 7. | EI7GK | 6748 | 67 | 28 | WW |
| 8. | EI6DL | 6526 | 71 | 26 | WH |
| 9. | EI9O | 6266 | 73 | 26 | DD |
| 10. | EI3HA | 6183 | 61 | 27 | RN |
| 11. | EI6D | 6150 | 66 | 25 | KE |
| 12. | EI2V | 5575 | 63 | 25 | DD |
| 13. | MI0JBT | 5408 | 58 | 26 | DY |
| 14. | EI7CC | 5325 | 57 | 5 | DD |
| 15. | MI0MSR | 5200 | 58 | 25 | AM |
| 16. | EI5FQB | 5100 | 54 | 25 | OY |
| 17. | EI3FFB | 4725 | 60 | 21 | TY |
| 18. | EI6IB | 4325 | 45 | 25 | LM |
| 19. | EI5IH | 4071 | 48 | 23 | CN |
| 20. | EI4DT | 4011 | 50 | 21 | KK |
| 21. | EI4CF | 3654 | 45 | 21 | GY |
| 22. | EI3ENB | 3624 | 40 | 24 | KK |

| | | | | | |
|-----|--------|------|----|----|----|
| 23. | GI4AAM | 3102 | 36 | 22 | DN |
| 24. | EI6HB | 3082 | 35 | 23 | CK |
| 25. | EI2CL | 3024 | 36 | 21 | DD |
| 26. | EI3GYB | 3014 | 35 | 22 | MO |
| 27. | EI9DZ | 2940 | 35 | 21 | LM |
| 28. | EI2FD | 2520 | 38 | 18 | LD |
| 29. | EI6IW | 2240 | 28 | 20 | LK |
| 30. | EI2CR | 2034 | 29 | 18 | DD |
| 31. | EI9JA | 1984 | 31 | 16 | MO |
| 32. | GI8SKN | 1853 | 27 | 17 | AM |
| 33. | EI3AV | 1656 | 23 | 18 | TY |
| 34. | EI6HW | 936 | 18 | 13 | WH |
| 34. | EI7JG | 936 | 18 | 13 | DD |
| 35. | EI9FBB | 627 | 15 | 11 | CK |
| 36. | EI3GV | 616 | 14 | 11 | DD |
| 37. | MI3JVI | 495 | 12 | 11 | DY |
| 38. | EI2JF | 144 | 6 | 6 | DD |

Portable

| | | | | | |
|----|----------|------|----|----|----|
| 1. | EI2MRG/P | 8068 | 72 | 28 | MO |
| 2. | EI9FVB/P | 6100 | 64 | 25 | KY |

Outside EI/GI Mixed

| | | | | |
|----|---------|------|----|----|
| 1. | GM4FAM | 4784 | 46 | 26 |
| 2. | G4BUO | 1742 | 23 | 16 |
| 3. | G3ULT/P | 512 | 16 | 8 |
| 4. | G0MTN | 384 | 12 | 8 |
| 5. | G4FKA | 308 | 11 | 7 |
| 6. | M5FUN | 252 | 9 | 7 |

Outside EI/GI SSB

| | | | | |
|----|--------|------|----|----|
| 1. | G3ZVW | 5270 | 55 | 26 |
| 2. | GD4HOX | 1344 | 21 | 16 |
| 3. | MW0CWJ | 224 | 8 | 7 |
| 4. | G6UBM | 100 | 5 | 5 |

SWL

| | | |
|----|--------------|------|
| 1. | EI299(G7VEW) | 9990 |
|----|--------------|------|

CW Field Day

Three Irish field day stations were heard during CW Field Day over the June bank holiday weekend..

Shannon Basin Radio Club, using the call sign EI3Z/P, and South Dublin Radio Club (EI2SDR/P) battled it out in the grounds of Garbally College in Ballinasloe, County Galway, while well known EI contesters Paul EI5DI operated with the "GI Brass Pounders" (call sign GI6YM/P) in County Antrim. Although the weather was not so kind, band conditions were generally good. There was a lot of Solar activity over the week-end, following the M3-flare on Friday 1st June, making band openings unpredictable. However 10 metres and 15 metres were open for some hours on Saturday and also, briefly, on Sunday.

The majority of QSOs were with other field day stations in IARU Region 1, particularly UK and German stations. However all participants reported calls from DX stations, with Australian, African and South Pacific call signs in the logs.

2 Metre Spring Counties Contest 2007 Results

This contest was held on Easter Monday and the turn out was slightly better than the last contest.

There was again a good turn out from GI and a log was received from a station in G land so, a special thanks to them.

Conditions on the day were changeable with QSB posing some problems.

The results are as follows,

| | | QSOs | Cnty | Pts | QTH |
|--|--|------|------|-----|-----|
|--|--|------|------|-----|-----|

High Power Fixed

| | | | | | |
|----|-------|----|----|------|----|
| 1. | EI2JD | 55 | 16 | 3696 | LH |
| 2. | EI4CF | 33 | 16 | 2256 | GY |

Outside EI

| | | | | | |
|----|----------|----|----|------|----|
| 1. | GI4SRQ | 37 | 11 | 1908 | AH |
| 2. | GI4FUE/P | 35 | 10 | 980 | AM |
| 2. | G3ZVW | 7 | 6 | 253 | |

Low Power Fixed

| | | | | | |
|----|--------|----|----|-----|----|
| 1. | EI3ENB | 22 | 10 | 660 | KK |
| 2. | EI3GYB | 8 | 3 | 84 | MO |

Outside EI

| | | | | | |
|----|--------|----|----|------|----|
| 1. | MI3IYA | 44 | 19 | 3857 | AH |
|----|--------|----|----|------|----|

High Power Portable

| | | | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|----|----|------|----|
| 1. | EI2SBC/P (EI6IB, EI8IU) | 60 | 24 | 7344 | LD |
| 2. | EI6IQ/P (EI6IQ, EI2GFB) | 54 | 17 | 4131 | MN |
| 3. | EI7T/P (EI2IT, EI7IG, EI8EPB) | 52 | 21 | 3780 | TY |
| 4. | EI9FVB/P | 7 | 5 | 140 | KY |

Outside EI

| | | | | | |
|----|----------|----|----|------|----|
| 1. | MI0CLP/P | 43 | 16 | 2416 | AH |
|----|----------|----|----|------|----|

Low Power Portable

| | | | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|----|----|------|----|
| 1. | EI4HX/P | 53 | 17 | 5304 | CN |
| 2. | EI4GHB | 60 | 20 | 4300 | TY |
| 3. | EI7MRE/P (EI2GCB, EI3JM, EI9JA) | 35 | 15 | 2385 | MO |

FM Only

| | | | | | |
|----|--------|-----|----|------|----|
| 1. | EI7GY | 101 | 14 | 1414 | LS |
| 2. | EI3FFB | 25 | 15 | 1080 | TY |
| 3. | EI3GRB | 16 | 10 | 490 | CE |

Thanks to EI5FQB and EI6EQB for their check logs.

Some note worthy points from the above, EI4GHB with 60 QSOs and EI2SBC/P with 7344 points.

Congratulations to all concerned, and my thanks to all who took the time to send in logs.

I can only ask again, please send in logs no matter the score.

Canadian Amateurs Lose 136kHz and 5MHz

Since 2001, a number of special, time-limited authorisations have been granted to some Canadian radio amateurs to conduct experiments on 136 kHz and at 5 MHz.

All of these special authorisations will expire and transmissions must cease on 30 June, 2007.

Further special authorisations will depend on the outcome of WRC-2007, scheduled for 22 October - 16 November.

At the suggestion of Canada, the agenda includes a new, worldwide, secondary Amateur allocation at 135.7 – 137.8 kHz. A secondary allocation near 5 MHz may also arise at WRC-2007 as a consideration in the review of radio services in the band 4 – 10 MHz.

Monthly 4 Metre Net

The 4-metre activity night takes place on the first Tuesday of each month between 20:00 and 22:00 local time. The next activity night is Tuesday the 3rd of July

Please send reports to "ei3ix@eircom.net".

Call in frequency is 70.2625 MHz.

So if you have any AM/FM/SSB gear, vertically or horizontally polarised, give a call in!

Have a listen for the 4-metre simplexer on 70.350 MHz.

AFRI75 - QSL Information

QSL information for the following 3DA calls used by the AFRI75 group:

| | | | |
|--------|-------------|--------|----------------|
| 3DA0PM | Paul EI2CA | 3DA0PB | Peter EI7CC |
| 3DA0AM | Aidan EI8CE | 3DA0DJ | David GU4FUM |
| 3DA0RH | Rory EI4DJB | 3DA0GV | Brendan EI3GV |
| 3DA0GI | Pete GI4VIV | 3DA0EI | CQ WPX Contest |

Bureau

QSL via EI7CC

Direct

For direct mail return, please provide one of the following:

- Stamped and self-addressed envelope (with an appropriate Irish stamp)
- Self-addressed envelope + current IRC
- Self-addressed envelope + US\$2

and send this, along with your card to:

Peter Ball EI7CC,

21 Doonamana Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin

The expedition is wholly financed by the participants and no additional support funding is being sought.

Any excess of monies after direct QSLs have been dispatched will be used to assist Swaziland Scouting's Thirst For Life Scout Project. Feel free to add an extra \$, if you wish, for that worthy cause.

The QSL Manager Peter EI7CC, reported on June 11th that QSL cards in respect of over 1000 QSOs have been sent to those who requested a direct QSL over recent weeks. He expected that the remaining 200 or so requests should be dealt with within a week.

QSLs for those EI stations who have not QSLed direct will be sent via the bureau.

Committee Report to the Annual General Meeting of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society Vienna Woods Hotel, Cork. 22nd April 2007

Committee Meetings

Seven Committee Meetings were held during the year. Six meetings were held in the Montague Hotel, Portlaoise and one was held at the Doughcloyne Hotel in Cork on the eve of the Blarney Rally in September.

Membership

The total membership of IRTS at the end of December 2006 was 950 which is a reduction of 30 over the year.

The table below shows the movement in membership numbers in recent years.

| Year | New Members | Re-joiners | Silent Keys | Lapsed | End of Year |
|------|-------------|------------|-------------|--------|-------------|
| 2002 | 73 | 12 | 10 | 74 | 977 |
| 2003 | 92 | 15 | 13 | 66 | 1,005 |
| 2004 | 60 | 16 | 7 | 89 | 985 |
| 2005 | 68 | 16 | 10 | 79 | 980 |
| 2006 | 64 | 13 | 17 | 90 | 950 |

2006 was not a great year for membership with a 3% decline in membership numbers. The numbers of new members and re-joiners was disappointing, while the number of members allowing their membership to lapse was higher than usual; this despite the fact that two follow-up reminders are sent to members whose membership subscription lapses.

Perhaps, representing the changing age profile, silent key numbers seem to be trending upwards.

On a brighter note, the number of Short Wave Listeners rose during the year by more than 10%; most the new SWLs are studying for the theory examination.

ComReg

Regular contact is maintained with ComReg by the Society. Meetings are held as necessary to discuss matters concerning amateur radio. Telephone, e-mail and written contacts are used to resolve issues that may arise from time to time.

On 22 May 2006, representatives of the Society met with ComReg for an informal review, after a year, of the new arrangements for the examination for an Experimenter's Licence. The ComReg representatives indicated that they are very satisfied at the way in which the matter is being handled by the IRTS.

On 22 June 2006, ComReg announced the Wireless Public Address System (WPAS). The system allows religious and community organisations to be licensed to retransmit audio from public address systems for the benefit of people in local communities. On 5 July the Society wrote to ComReg and while welcoming the initiative to regulate this activity, it expressed concern that a number of the proposed channels were very close to the low frequency edge of the 28 MHz band e.g. 28.995 and 28.99125 MHz. This letter was followed with a meeting on 19 July 2006.

Despite the points made by the Society in its letter and at the meeting, ComReg held to the view that licensed Wireless Public Address Systems operating within their licence conditions would not cause interference to experimenter or amateur stations operating close to the low frequency edge of the 28 MHz band. To date no reports of any such stations being copied within the 28 MHz band have been received by the Society.

Notes have been submitted on a range of matters which the Society wishes to discuss with ComReg.

Among these matters are:

- ComReg proposals on Repeater call signs
- Amendments to the Regulations to give effect to Life Long Licences
- Issue of 70 MHz without special application on the basis of the position adopted by ComReg in Document 05/89
- Allocation of 5 MHz 'spot' frequencies as are in use in the UK, Iceland, Finland, Norway, the USA and Canada
- Allocation to experimenters in the region of 500 kHz

It is expected that a meeting will be held with ComReg in the near future. The committee would like to acknowledge the assistance given by Dave Court EI3IO in some of these matters.

Morse Code

ComReg continues to require experimenters to pass a 5 wpm Morse test before issuing a CEPT Class 1 licence with a two letter suffix.

The Society provides Morse testing facilities at rallies when requested.

IARU

At international level, National Societies throughout the world work together for the overall good of Amateur Radio under the auspices of a representative democracy, the International Amateur Radio Union – IARU. It is through the work of the IARU that radio amateurs are able to devise agreed objectives and a unified strategy to seek to achieve them in the run up to World Radio Conferences of the ITU. This is how the improvements at 7 MHz were achieved at WRC '03.

A small part of each member's annual subscription goes to help fund the work of the IARU. It behoves all who have the best interests of amateur radio at heart to join their National Society and contribute to and support the work of the IARU. Like any other Union it works for the good of its members – the radio amateurs of the world.

Like other Region 1 IARU societies the IRTS through representations to the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment ensured that the Regulations here which implemented an EMC Directive 2004/108/EC included the exemptions in relation to certain amateur radio equipment. Representations were also made to European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) at the request of Region 1 IARU in relation to ETSI TS 102 571 on 'smart notching' on PLT Modems.

Theory Examination

Under an agreement concluded with ComReg on 26 May 2005, the Society took over responsibility for the setting, organising and correcting of the examination for an Experimenter's Licence. Since undertaking this responsibility the IRTS has held four examinations. A total of 66 candidates sat these examinations and 44 were successful – a pass rate of 67%.

The fifth examination will be held on Thursday 28 June. On this occasion, in addition to the usual exam centre at the Com-

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

Reg offices in Dublin there will be a further centre at the Car-rigtwohill Community Centre. It is expected that between 40 and 50 candidates will sit the examination. This will bring to over 100 the number of candidates who have sat the examination in the two years since it became the responsibility of the IRTS.

AREN

AREN training and preparation is continuing on an on-going basis where a group of very dedicated experimenters have taken it upon themselves to prepare in the best possible way in order to be able to provide and assist with emergency communications in times of disaster. AREN nets and exercises are held regularly to ensure that a pool of radio operators proficient in emergency communications will be available if, and when, disaster strikes.

Publications

Echo Ireland was published five times in 2006. This publication continues to be the face of the IRTS delivered to your door. It can be a very onerous and time consuming task for the editor to maintain a consistently high standard in each issue. The Committee appeals to members to submit news items, articles, photos and other information which may be of interest to fellow experimenters and listeners. At the same time we would like to thank the regular contributors for their efforts.

IRTS Shop

The Society has an arrangement with the RSGB to provide an on-line book shop for IRTS members. All items are priced in Euros, with a 10% discount available for members. There is a link from our website or you may go directly to www.irtsshop.com

IRTS will continue to have a presence at all rallies in the future but, once existing stocks are exhausted, sales will be confined to IRTS specific items such as Log-Books, Pin Badges, ties and maps etc. and to provide a contact point for membership applications and renewals.

Our thanks to Peter EI4HX, Pat EI2HX and Thos EI2JD who provided an IRTS presence at all rallies during the past year.

QSL Service

Tony Baldwin EI8JK our out-going QSL Manager recently reported that in the past year he had despatched over 89 kilos of parcels to foreign QSL bureaux. We estimate this to be in excess of 31,150 QSL cards. Card quantities were down on last year, due in part to fewer "EI25's" sent out and also of course due to the sunspot minimum.

We again thank Tony for his trojan work and would ask members to follow the rules in the Handbook regarding the sorting of cards in order to assist Tony in his task.

On the in-coming side we also have an excellent network to ensure regular distribution of members' cards. Mike EI2CL regularly collects many parcels of cards from abroad, together with other mail addressed to P.O. Box 462. Following an initial sort by Mike, the cards are passed to Pat EI2HX who distributes the cards to the sub-managers. Again, our thanks are due to Mike, Pat and all the in-coming sub-managers - John EI7FAB, Thos EI2JD, Jim EI3DP, Andy EI5JF, Rory EI4DJB, Dave EI7JK, Brian EI8IU and David EI9FFB.

Radio News

The Radio News is broadcast weekly on both 80 and 40 metres on Sunday mornings, usually from the Dublin area.

The Committee is actively looking for volunteers to join the HF newsreaders team.

The news is also broadcast by clubs from several locations around the country, mainly on Monday and Tuesday nights. Judging by the call-ins with reports, these broadcasts continue to be very popular with experimenters. It can be a difficult job producing an interesting script every week. We ask that members, both individuals and clubs, submit items for the News as often as possible. Our thanks to Mark EI7IS for his work on the Radio News and to the many newsreaders who give such great service week in, week out.

Awards

The Society is called on each year to validate a small number of applications for external awards. The Society's WEIC award is difficult to obtain and only one such award was issued in the past year. This is mainly due to the requirement to provide QSL cards to substantiate the contacts. For this reason, the Committee decided that QSL cards would no longer be required for the Worked EI Counties award. For the future, the award will be issued on the basis of a log extract certified by an officer of a Radio Club or by two licensed radio experimenters/amateurs.

To mark the 75th Jubilee Year a special Jubilee Year WEIC award has been introduced. Only contacts made between 1st January and 31st December 2007 are valid for the award.

The Society's trophies which are awarded for contests as well as for service to the Society or to Amateur Radio will be presented after the conclusion of the AGM.

Contests

The Society directly organises six contests each year - CW, SSB and VHF Field Days, Spring and Autumn 2m Counties Contests and the 80m Counties Contest.

While the 2 metre and 80 metre contests are well supported, our Field Days could do with more participation.

In recent years, a central location in Ballinasloe has been used for the HF field days where restricted (100 watt) stations can co-exist happily in relatively close proximity to one another. This has been reasonably successful and the Saturday night bar-beque put on by the Shannon Basin Club is a big feature of the event. We urge clubs and groups to consider participation this year. Stations may still operate from other locations and it does not take much effort to get a field day station on the air.

Advice is available from the Contest Manager.

The Society awards trophies for the leading EI stations in some of the international contests and we are always well represented in the bigger events.

Members Input

Our society is run totally on a voluntary basis and depends totally on the goodwill of members to keep all our services going on a day to day basis.

The Committee expresses its thanks to all members for their efforts, especially to our P.O. Box Manager, QSL Managers, radio newsreaders and all who provide input to both the radio and printed news services.

We look forward to their continuing support over the coming year.

Dave Moore EI4BZ
Hon. Secretary

Irish Radio Transmitters Society

Treasurer's Report for the Year to 31st December 2006 to the Annual General Meeting

Vienna Woods Hotel, Cork 22nd April 2007

I have pleasure in presenting the Accounts for the year 2006 for approval.

The Society had a good year financially. A surplus of €5,853 was achieved on day-to-day operations, which in addition to a generous sponsorship of €5,000 received during the year, gives a total surplus of almost €11,000.

The sponsorship is specifically targeted at meeting the costs of the CQIR Jubilee Contest in September 2007.

The surplus on day-to-day operations came about through a number of unrelated circumstances:

1. Subscriptions increased by almost €4,000 as new subscription rates took effect.
2. Five issues of Echo Ireland were distributed rather than the usual six.
3. No Call Book was issued (Call Books are usually produced in alternate years).
4. As Book Sales are phased out, the losses associated with this operation are reducing.

This surplus has been added to the General Reserve which now stands at a very healthy €36,000. The sponsorship money will be held in the Jubilee Fund until it is needed later in the year.

2007 is likely to be a challenging year. Not only will the Society have to carry the substantial costs associated with the Jubilee celebrations but inflationary pressures are very evident in costs generally. Foremost among these are Postage costs which continue on their seemingly unstoppable rise.

My thanks go to Brendan de hÓra EI3GV who handed over the books to me in impeccable condition; to Joe Ryan EI7GY whose membership database is a source of continuing inspiration; and to Gerry Gervin EI8CC and Tom McLoughlin EI400, the Society's Auditors for many years, whose wise counsel is helpful and always welcome.

Signed:

Sean Donelan EI4GK,
Hon. Treasurer

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2006

| | 2005 | 2005 | 2006 | 2006 |
|--|---------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Fixed Assets | | | | |
| Equipment | | Nil | | Nil |
| Prize Bonds | | £89 | | €89 |
| Shares – Irish Life and Permanent plc. | | £754 | | €754 |
| Current Assets | | | | |
| Stock for Re-sale | €1,918 | | €8,64 | |
| Cash on Deposit | €30,045 | | €30,567 | |
| Cash at Bank | <u>€1,510</u> | | <u>€13,339</u> | |
| | | <u>€33,473</u> | | <u>€44,770</u> |
| Total Assets | | €34,316 | | €45,613 |
| Liabilities | | Nil | | Nil |
| <u>Surplus of Assets over Liabilities</u> | | <u>€34,316</u> | | <u>€45,613</u> |
| Represented by: | | | | |
| General Reserve | | €30,187 | | €36,040 |
| IARU Conference Reserve | | €3,299 | | €3,743 |
| Jubilee Fund | | €830 | | €5,830 |
| | | <u>€34,316</u> | | <u>€45,613</u> |

Signed

Seán Donelan EI4GK, Hon. Treasurer

Irish Radio Transmitters Society

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year to 31st December 2006

| Income | 2005 | 2006 |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Subscriptions | €20,130 | €24,033 |
| Donations | €830 | €49 |
| Advertising | €660 | €1,010 |
| Book Sales | (€1,979) | (€650) |
| CD Rom Sales | €0 | €261 |
| Investments & Bank Interest | €529 | €688 |
| Theory & Morse Tests | €651 | €1,241 |
| WEIC etc. | €66 | 5 |
| Sponsorship of Jubilee Contest | €0 | €5,000 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| | €20,886 | €31,637 |
| | ===== | ===== |

Expenditure

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Newsletter Printing | €7,564 | €6,708 |
| Newsletter Postage & Delivery | €5,661 | €4,655 |
| Postage & Telephone | €775 | €824 |
| Yearbook Printing | €1,380 | €0 |
| QSL Service Outgoing | €800 | €974 |
| QSL Service Incoming | €502 | €552 |
| Stationery & Admin. | €558 | €492 |
| P.O. Box Rental | €220 | €220 |
| Insurance | €819 | €793 |
| Committee Meetings | €612 | €715 |
| AGM Costs | €200 | €760 |
| IARU Dues | €986 | €888 |
| Licence Fees | €20 | €10 |
| Conference Reserve | €1,270 | €1,270 |
| Bank Charges | €281 | €386 |
| Trophies etc. | €682 | €852 |
| Website Costs | €481 | €299 |
| Miscellaneous Costs | €1059 | €386 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| | €23,870 | €20,784 |

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Deficit for Year | (€2,984) | €10,853 |
| | ----- | ----- |

Irish Radio Transmitters Society

Notes on, and forming part of the Accounts for the Year ended 31st December 2006

1. Income

Subscriptions and Income received during the year were credited to the Income and Expenditure Account. Subscriptions covering any period after 31st December 2006 were not treated as prepaid. No provision was made for Subscriptions in arrears.

2. General Reserve

| | |
|--|---------|
| Balance as at 1 st January 2005 | €30,187 |
| Add surplus for year 2006 | €25,853 |
| | ----- |

| | |
|--|---------|
| Balance as at 31 st December 2006 | €36,040 |
| | ===== |

3 IARU Conference Reserve

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Balance on 1 st January | €3,299 |
| Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account | <u>€1,270</u> |
| Sub Total | €4,569 |
| Less Expenses 2006 | €826 |
| | ----- |

| | |
|---|--------|
| Balance on 31 st December 2006 | €3,743 |
|---|--------|

4 Jubilee Fund

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| Balance on January 1st 2006 | €830 |
| Sponsorship of Jubilee Contest | €5,000 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Balance on December 31st 2006 | €5,830 |
|-------------------------------|--------|

5. Shares – Irish Life and Permanent plc

Shares in Irish Life and Permanent plc are shown in the Balance Sheet at the issue price of €754 (330 shares @ €2.29 per share).

The Market Value of these shares on 2nd April 2007 was €6,781 (€20.55 per share)

6 Cash on Deposit

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Balance on January 1st 2006 | €30,045 |
| Balance on December 31st 2006 | €30,567 |

7 Equipment

All equipment in the ownership of the Society has been fully depreciated

Auditors Report

We, the undersigned, acting as Honorary Auditors of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society, have compared the foregoing Income and Expenditure Account, Balance Sheet and Notes thereon, with the books and vouchers of the Society and certify that they are correct and in accordance with them.

Signed:

Thomas McLoughlin EI400
Ger Gervin EI8CC
April 10th 2007

Dayton Hamvention 2007

Report by Tony EI5EM



Tony EI5EM and Mark EI4FNB

The Dayton Hamvention took place this year over the weekend of 18-20 May. The web site is www.hamvention.org. As is my wont, I paid a visit to my brother in Michigan for two weeks and took in the Hamvention on the middle weekend. This year I stayed in Xenia to the east of Dayton and drove the 270 miles south from Michigan on the eve of the show.

That evening I drove to Dayton Airport and met Mark (EI4FNB) who was flying to the USA for a conference in Orlando the following week. He conveniently managed to travel via Dayton to take in the Hamvention.

We set out shortly after 0600 on Friday morning and had breakfast on the way to the Hara Arena. The flea-market with its 2500 stalls opened at 0800, an hour before the indoor halls. The weather was pleasant, not too hot. From previous experience I learned that it is better to cover the outdoor market when the weather is good. So Mark and I went our separate ways and I concentrated on the outdoor market.

One of the disadvantages of being so far from home is that you have to be very selective in what you buy, particularly in terms of weight. You simply have to pass on several real bargains. I bought several small items but I made no major pur-



Mark EI4FNB strikes a bargain

chases outdoors. I estimate that I walked about three or four miles that morning.

I had arranged an eyeball with Gene (AL7GQ) from Denver for noon at the G-QRP stand. I introduced Mark to Gene and we chatted for about half an hour. Gene will be in Ireland later in the year and plans to visit the Cork Rally. He should also be QRV from Baltimore around the same time. I had arranged a further eyeball and chat with Mike (KT6MJ) from California an hour later at the Elecraft stand. Mike had paid us a visit at the wireless museum in Howth late last year.



HF/P

Elecraft had their new K-3 HF rig on display. From the looks of it, they plan to take on the big boys (www.elecraft.com). The specifications are impressive. In contrast to their earlier products, the K-3 can be purchased factory assembled. It can also be purchased for home assembly at a small saving. However, this simply involves plugging pre-assembled modules into a main board.

One thing that I find irritating in the USA is that prices are advertised exclusive of State Tax (6% in Ohio).

For example, I purchased a 25A 12-Volt switch-mode power supply for \$69 only to have tax added costing me just over 73 dollars. But then again I was getting \$1.34 for my Euro in contrast to only 88 cents some years ago.

However, it would be more convenient if the price advertised was inclusive of tax.

The indoor stands occupy several separate halls. Yaesu, Icom and Kenwood each have impressive displays and give out free goodies including caps, logbooks and maps. Icom presented an amusing



entertainment performed by two female androids in metal armoured suits.

MFJ occupied a vast area in the basketball arena. The two big suppliers HRO and AES were in the same hall. However, it is difficult to peruse their stock, as everything is held behind the counter with almost nothing on display. I suppose this is understandable as most purchases are made from their catalogues and brisk business was being conducted.

I met George Dobbs (G3RJV) and Angus Annan (MM1CCR), president of the RSGB. I had spoken to Angus only a few weeks previously at the IRTS AGM in Cork. Angus is originally from Ireland. I also had a conversation in Gaelic with Martin at the RSGB stand. I am sorry I cannot remember Martin's callsign. He spoke Scot's Gaelic and we were able to



Who said valves are no good?

conduct a basic conversation.

I spent the remainder of Friday perusing the many other stands and picking up bits and pieces along the way. On the way back to the motel I dropped Mark off at

(Continued on page 19)

(Continued from page 18)

the Air Force Museum to attend the AM-SAT dinner. I later collected him. It had been a tiring day and we both retired early to be ready to do it all again the following day.

As I was leaving Dayton at noon on Saturday, Mark decided to rent a car to get him back to the motel that evening and to the airport for an early flight to Orlando on



Serves him right for not running QRP

Sunday morning. I dropped Mark off at the car rental office on the way to the Hamvention.

I made my last minute purchases including the Elecraft K-1 and some MP3 recordings of old radio shows from the 40s and 50s. Having these playing in the background will add to the atmosphere at the vintage wireless museum in Howth. I made a final sweep of the halls before bidding Mark farewell and driving to St. Louis, the next stop on my itinerary.

Dayton 2007 was enjoyable as always and it was nice meeting up with friends again. Each year I say that I will give Dayton a miss the following year and go somewhere else for a change. I won't say it this time. I'll just wait and see, God willing.

de Tony (EI5EM)



Dayton Club Mobile Station

The Elecraft KX-1 - 4 Band QRP CW Transceiver



The photograph above was taken during the recent International Marconi Day operation in Howth. It shows Joe Deery (EI4JA), a blind operator, receiving his newly constructed Elecraft KX-1 from Tony Breathnach (EI5EM).

The KX-1 was of particular interest to Joe because it has a feature that allows whatever is shown on the LED display to be announced in Morse Code.

Tony had previously loaned his own KX-1 to Joe some time ago and Joe was so impressed with this feature that he ordered a kit, which Tony offered to build.

The KX-1 is designed for headphone use only. However, Tony built an external amplifier with speaker to boost the audio level.

The amplifier enclosure attaches to the KX-1 with Velcro.

In the photograph you can see Joe trying out the rig on his newly bought Buddipole antenna. Also included in the photograph from left to right are Eamonn EI2CHB, Gerry (visitor), Tony EI5EM and newly licensed experimenter Conor EI5GAB.

The KX-1, as built for Joe, is a four-band (20,30,40 and 80 metres) 4-Watt CW transceiver. It has its own internal automatic ATU and iambic keyer.

Elecraft has its own unique twin paddle which neatly attaches to the rig.

Believe it or not, the case also has sufficient room left to accommodate six AA batteries for portable use. The elecraft site is www.elecraft.com.

Hamvention® 2007 Award Winners

The Dayton Hamvention 2007 Awards committee is proud to honor three hams who have made significant contributions to the Amateur Radio Service.

Amateur of the Year

Jim Haynie, W5JBP, whose leadership of ARRL, the National Association for Amateur Radio, helped define amateur radio's role in emergency communication was named Amateur of the Year.

Special; Achievements Award

Ed Hare, W1RFI, whose relentless pursuit of BPL interference documentation helped defend ham bands was selected for the Special Achievement Awards.

Technical Excellence Award.

David Cameron, VE7LTD, who spearheaded the Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) which turned amateur radio repeaters into a worldwide communication network, will receive the Technical Excellence Award.

Islands On The Air Contest - All Time EI Scores

| Call | QSOs | Mults | Points | Island | Year | Island | Position | EI9ES | 162 | 45 | 53,190 | EU-115 | 2006 | Low Power | 1 |
|---|-------|-------|------------|--------|------|---------------|----------|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-----------|--------|------|-----------|----------|
| Multi-Operator | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| EJ2MT | 3,029 | 505 | 10,202,615 | EU-121 | 2005 | Bere Island | 1 | Call | QSOs | Mults | Points | Island | Year | Island | Position |
| EJ2MT | 2,828 | 444 | 7,464,528 | EU-121 | 2006 | Bere Island | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| EJ2MT | 2,508 | 416 | 7,378,176 | EU0121 | 2005 | Bere Island | 4 | | | | | | | | |
| EI7M | 2,632 | 417 | 6,194,952 | EU-115 | 2002 | | 11 | SO 24 Hour SSB | | | | | | | |
| EI1DD | 2,312 | 400 | 5,715,600 | EU-115 | 2000 | | 11 | EI8IR | 2,091 | 217 | 2,546,061 | EU-115 | 2004 | | 2 |
| EJ4GK/P | 1,867 | 331 | 4,916,343 | EU-006 | 2001 | Aran | 18 | EI8IR | 1,642 | 223 | 2,222,148 | EU-115 | 2001 | | 4 |
| EI7M | 2,325 | 349 | 4,620,411 | EU-115 | 2006 | | 5 | EI0W | 1,298 | 189 | 1,418,634 | EU-115 | 2005 | | 5 |
| EJ7M | 2,596 | 325 | 4,613,700 | EU-121 | 2000 | Bere Island | 13 | EI8GS | 1,318 | 155 | 1,098,330 | EU-115 | 2001 | | 9 |
| EJ7M | 2,088 | 283 | 4,119,340 | EU-121 | 1998 | Bere Island | 10 | EI7IQ | 936 | 151 | 983,916 | EU-103 | 2001 | Saltees | 11 |
| EJ4F | 1,976 | 292 | 3,798,336 | EU-006 | 2002 | Inisheer | 23 | EI7GL | 832 | 174 | 983,448 | EU-115 | 2000 | | 8 |
| EJ1D | 1,752 | 293 | 3,706,743 | EU-121 | 1996 | Bere Island | 7 | EI8GS | 1,094 | 130 | 785,460 | EU-115 | 2003 | | 6 |
| EJ0GI | 1,831 | 280 | 3,375,960 | EU-006 | 2005 | Inisheer | 15 | EI8GS | 1,149 | 127 | 736,473 | EU-115 | 1999 | | 14 |
| EJ7NET | 2,067 | 214 | 3,279,764 | EU-006 | 1995 | Aran | 3 | EI8IR | 902 | 139 | 683,046 | EU-115 | 1999 | | 15 |
| EJ0GI | 1,947 | 274 | 3,152,370 | EU-006 | 2006 | Inisheer | 8 | EI2II | 803 | 131 | 615,831 | EU-115 | 2006 | | 2 |
| EJ5E | 1,432 | 298 | 3,082,512 | EU-121 | 2002 | Inishbofin | 27 | EI7IQ | 533 | 130 | 540,150 | EU-115 | 2002 | | 7 |
| EI7M | 1,812 | 224 | 2,814,560 | EU-115 | 1996 | | 8 | EI8GS | 985 | 90 | 452,790 | EU-115 | 2006 | | 3 |
| EJ1D | 1,709 | 213 | 2,649,720 | EU-121 | 1997 | Bere Island | 15 | EI2IB | 410 | 119 | 441,728 | EU-115 | 1998 | | 14 |
| EJ1D | 1,764 | 198 | 2,312,640 | EU-121 | 1995 | ? | 5 | EI7GL | 376 | 117 | 430,443 | EU-115 | 1997 | | 13 |
| EJ4GK | 1,896 | 221 | 2,301,936 | EU-006 | 2000 | Aran | 26 | EI7IQ | 401 | 123 | 428,409 | EU-115 | 2003 | Low Power | 2 |
| EI0A | 1,216 | 256 | 2,181,120 | EU-115 | 2001 | | 38 | EI3IS | 396 | 102 | 360,468 | EU-115 | 1999 | | 24 |
| EJ2SDR | 1,294 | 212 | 1,853,304 | EU-121 | 2003 | Inishbofin | 21 | EI7CC | 300 | 122 | 356,484 | EU-115 | 1996 | | 11 |
| EJ4F | 1,209 | 205 | 1,599,165 | EU-121 | 2006 | Arranmore, DL | 12 | EI2CH | 301 | 116 | 333,036 | EU-115 | 2001 | | 18 |
| EI4GK | 1,772 | 144 | 1,559,232 | EU-115 | 1995 | | 10 | EI2IE | 619 | 67 | 332,588 | EU-115 | 1995 | | 4 |
| EJ1D | 1,996 | 126 | 1,542,240 | EU-121 | 1993 | ? | 2 | EI2II | 595 | 94 | 324,582 | EU-115 | 2005 | | 17 |
| EJ3HB | 1,371 | 154 | 1,466,850 | EU-121 | 2001 | ? | 47 | EI2II | 337 | 89 | 284,088 | EU-115 | 1996 | | 13 |
| EJ1D | 1,651 | 140 | 1,445,220 | EU-121 | 1994 | ? | 6 | EI7CC | 261 | 111 | 278,721 | EU-115 | 2003 | Low Power | 7 |
| EJ5E | 1,110 | 180 | 1,325,160 | EU-006 | 2004 | Inisheer | 35 | EI7IQ | 444 | 92 | 276,000 | EU-15 | 2004 | Low Power | |
| EJ4GK | 1,464 | 150 | 1,177,200 | EU-006 | 1999 | Aran | 32 | EI2HY | 116 | 98 | 160,622 | EU-115 | 1998 | | 27 |
| EJ5J | 1,151 | 165 | 1,175,625 | EU-121 | 2000 | ? | 51 | EI2II | 235 | 75 | 139,275 | EU-115 | 2003 | Low Power | 12 |
| EJ4GK | 1,294 | 131 | 1,147,036 | EU-103 | 1997 | Saltees | 28 | | | | | | | | |
| EJ2HY | 1,480 | 176 | 1,047,552 | EU-115 | 1999 | | 37 | SO 24 Hour SSB (Assisted) | | | | | | | |
| EJ4GK | 1,333 | 114 | 979,260 | EU-121 | 1996 | ? | 27 | EI2JD | 485 | 115 | 454,365 | EU-115 | 2003 | | 12 |
| EI2JD | 988 | 145 | 791,700 | EU-115 | 2004 | | 44 | EI7JR | 121 | 44 | 46,068 | EU-115 | 2006 | Low Power | 4 |
| EJ5CRC | 1,110 | 92 | 638,296 | EU-007 | 1996 | Blaskets | 37 | | | | | | | | |
| EI9GJ | 688 | 92 | 438,196 | EU-115 | 1999 | | 60 | SO 12 Hour Mixed | | | | | | | |
| EI2SDR | 472 | 110 | 419,760 | EU-115 | 1998 | | 47 | EI5DI | 567 | 84 | 260,820 | EU-115 | 2001 | | 8 |
| EJ7MRE | 891 | 96 | 415,584 | EU-121 | 1999 | ? | 62 | EI4DW | 540 | 88 | 251,328 | EU-115 | 2000 | | 7 |
| EJ4GK | 972 | 58 | 371,954 | EU-006 | 1993 | Aran | 24 | EI4DW | 327 | 60 | 106,380 | EU-115 | 2005 | | 32 |
| EJ6FR | 767 | 59 | 327,540 | EU-007 | 1993 | Blaskets | 26 | | | | | | | | |
| EJ5CRC | 517 | 80 | 311,200 | EU-121 | 1995 | ? | 29 | | | | | | | | |
| EJ4GK | 732 | 52 | 265,928 | EU-006 | 1994 | Aran | 18 | EI4DW | 152 | 41 | 53,464 | EU-115 | 1998 | | 15 |
| EJ5CRC | 311 | 51 | 139,689 | EU-121 | 1994 | ? | 25 | EI7GY | 111 | 40 | 33,280 | EU-115 | 1994 | | 11 |
| EJ/G3LZQ | 479 | 58 | 137,634 | EU-006 | 2006 | Innishmore | 10 | EI2HY | 45 | 43 | 25,761 | EU-115 | 1997 | | 19 |
| EI6GF | 148 | 20 | 18,800 | EU-115 | 1993 | | 67 | | | | | | | | |
| Island Multi-Operator Low Power, Single Elements | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| EJ7M | 1,336 | 239 | 1,924,428 | EU-121 | 2003 | Bere Island | 6 | SO 12 Hour CW | | | | | | | |
| EJ4F | 952 | 170 | 973,080 | EU-103 | 2004 | Little Saltee | 10 | EI5GM | 355 | 92 | 219,420 | EU-115 | 2003 | | 9 |
| | | | | | | | | EI4DW | 382 | 76 | 181,944 | EU-115 | 2002 | | 29 |
| | | | | | | | | EI4DW | 289 | 85 | 181,815 | EU-115 | 2003 | | 12 |
| | | | | | | | | EI4DW | 370 | 71 | 170,826 | EU-115 | 2001 | | 32 |
| | | | | | | | | EI6IZ | 427 | 63 | 160,083 | EU-115 | 2003 | Low Power | 14 |
| SO 24 Hour Mixed | | | | | | | | EI8GP | 463 | 63 | 147,987 | EU-115 | 2000 | | 15 |
| EI5DI | 1,052 | 190 | 1,243,718 | EU-115 | 1999 | | 2 | EI6GF | 532 | 40 | 131,880 | EU-115 | 1996 | | 11 |
| EI5DI | 1,149 | 152 | 1,142,128 | EU-115 | 1997 | | 5 | EI4CF | 165 | 65 | 88,355 | EU-115 | 2004 | | 17 |
| EI5DI | 940 | 139 | 675,540 | EU-115 | 2006 | | 2 | EI8GP | 406 | 34 | 85,476 | EU-115 | 1998 | | 15 |
| EI5DI | 615 | 115 | 492,545 | EU-115 | 1998 | | 6 | EI8JM | 172 | 48 | 73,278 | EU-115 | 2003 | Low Power | 22 |
| EI4BZ | 463 | 125 | 397,125 | EU-115 | 1999 | | 10 | EI/E5GN | 408 | 38 | 70,680 | EU-115 | 2006 | Low Power | 11 |
| EI4CF | 273 | 123 | 307,377 | EU-115 | 2003 | | 2 | EI4DW | 219 | 43 | 66,048 | EU-115 | 1997 | | 27 |
| EI4DW | 520 | 78 | 262,314 | EU-115 | 1996 | | 9 | EI8FH | 139 | 47 | 56,259 | EU-115 | 2006 | QRP | 2 |
| EI7GY | 437 | 90 | 257,310 | EU-115 | 2003 | | 9 | EI6GF | 147 | 40 | 40,480 | EU-115 | 1994 | | 14 |
| EI4DW | 459 | 70 | 223,020 | EU-115 | 1994 | | 5 | | | | | | | | |
| EI5DI | 108 | 32 | 26,880 | EU-115 | 2003 | | 18 | SO 12 Hour SSB | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | EI7GL | 424 | 151 | 612,456 | EU-115 | 2001 | | 8 |
| SO 24 Hour CW | | | | | | | | EJ9HQ | 643 | 106 | 528,834 | EU-121 | 2003 | Aranmore | 5 |
| EI4BZ | 660 | 115 | 477,480 | EU-115 | 2001 | | 16 | EI7CC | 400 | 129 | 450,468 | EU-115 | 2001 | | 15 |
| EI4VTC/P | 578 | 64 | 250,752 | EU-115 | 1995 | | 4 | EI7CC | 381 | 118 | 347,274 | EU-115 | 2002 | | 7 |
| EI9ES | 113 | 30 | 21,690 | EU-115 | 2005 | | 84 | EI4CF | 420 | 104 | 324,480 | EU-115 | 2005 | | 18 |
| | | | | | | | | EI4CF | 241 | 121 | 286,407 | EU-115 | 2001 | | 21 |
| | | | | | | | | EI4CF | 457 | 99 | 281,853 | EU-115 | 2006 | Low Power | 3 |
| SO 24 Hour CW (Assisted) | | | | | | | | EI4CF | 228 | 119 | 275,604 | EU-115 | 2002 | | 11 |

Islands On The Air Contest - 28/29th July 2007

EI's on EQSL DXCC 04/06/2007

DXCC
Confirmed

| | | |
|-----|-------------|----------|
| 166 | EI7BA | Approved |
| 149 | EI3IO | |
| 137 | EI4CF | Approved |
| 119 | EI2JD | Approved |
| 115 | EI6IZ | Approved |
| 114 | EI9FBB | Approved |
| 100 | EJ9FBB | Approved |
| 97 | EI6HB | |
| 91 | EI9HQ | Approved |
| 88 | EJ9HQ | Approved |
| 84 | EI8IU | |
| 80 | EI6AL | Approved |
| 78 | EI6JK | |
| 74 | EI9ES | Approved |
| 71 | EI8FH | Approved |
| 70 | EI9FVB | |
| 65 | EI7IX | Approved |
| 65 | EI7M | |
| 62 | EI8GP | |
| 61 | EI4IS | |
| 60 | EI7JN | |
| 59 | EI2II | Approved |
| 58 | EI9JF | |
| 57 | EI/DH0GSU/p | |
| 56 | EI1DG | |
| 55 | EI0CZ | |
| 55 | EI8DL | Approved |
| 54 | EI7IQ | |
| 54 | EI8DD | |
| 52 | EI9JM | |
| 50 | EI6AK | |
| 48 | EI6CPB | Approved |
| 46 | EI7BMB | |
| 45 | EI3HA | |
| 45 | EI7BFB | |
| 44 | EI4HH | Approved |
| 44 | EI8JR | |
| 41 | EI3EBB | |
| 41 | EI4HQ | |
| 40 | EI6ARB | Approved |
| 39 | EI6IF | |
| 39 | EI9CF | |
| 30 | EI90GPO | |
| 28 | EI1KARG | |
| 25 | EI2FS | |
| 22 | EI7GM | |
| 20 | EI0CPL | |
| 20 | EI2IV | |

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------|------------------------|
| Worked All States | 38 | EI9FBB |
| 50 | EI9FBB | 37 EI3IO |
| 50 | EJ9FBB | 37 EI4CF |
| | | 31 EI2JD |
| 49 | EI9HQ | 24 EI6JK |
| 49 | EJ9HQ | 22 EI7JN |
| 48 | EI4CF | |
| 45 | EI6HB | Worked Prefixes |
| 44 | EI3IO | 772 EI4CF |
| 43 | EI4IS | 617 EI2JD |
| 43 | EI8GP | 528 EI3IO |
| 41 | EI7BA | 372 EI9FBB |
| 36 | EI2JD | 249 EI6JK |
| 35 | EI7JN | 246 EI9HQ |
| 20 | EI6JK | 225 EI9FVB |
| | | 213 EI8JN |
| Worked All Zones | 193 | EI9JM |
| 39 | EI7BA | 167 EI8IU |

EI DXCC Listings (as at June 5th 2007)

| | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Mixed | | | 160m | | |
| 345 | EI7CC | Peter Ball | 141 | EI3IO | Dave Court (New) |
| 340 | EI2GS | Frank O'Brien | | | |
| 339 | EI8H | Patrick Fagan | 80m | | |
| 334 | EI6FR | Declan Craig | 102 | EI4BZ | Dave Moore |
| 324 | EI6S | George McClarey | | | |
| 306 | EI2HY | Anthony O'Rourke | 40m | | |
| 262 | EI2GX | Tony Stack | 112 | EI7GL | John Desmond |
| 232 | EI4BZ | Dave Moore (+8) | 112 | EI4BZ | Dave Moore (+3) |
| 220 | EI7BA | John Tait (+12) | | | |
| 217 | EI3IO | Dave Court (New) | 30m | EI4BZ | Dave Moore (New) |
| 206 | EI9FBB | Dave Deane | | | |
| 197 | EI2JD | Thos Caffrey | 20m | | |
| 174 | EI8IU | Brian Canning | 155 | EI9FBB | Dave Deane |
| 152 | EI6IZ | Brendan Minish (+7) | 150 | EI4BZ | Dave Moore (+4) |
| 128 | EI8HA | Jim Murphy | 131 | EI7BA | John Tait (+5) |
| 120 | EI6HB | Denis O'Flynn (+11) | 119 | EI2JD | Thos Caffrey |
| 107 | EI9HQ | Declan Lennon | 106 | EI3GV | Brendan de hÓra |
| 104 | EI5GM | Jeremy Sheehan | | | |
| | | | 17m | | |
| Phone | | | 111 | EI7BA | John Tait (+2) |
| 344 | EI7CC | Peter Ball | | | |
| 338 | EI2GS | Frank O'Brien | 15m | | |
| 330 | EI8EM | Alan Cronin | 164 | EI4BZ | Dave Moore (+1) |
| 328 | EI8AR | Bro. John Shortall | 105 | EI7BA | John Tait (New) |
| 320 | EI6S | George McClarey | 104 | EI3GV | Brendan de hÓra |
| 300 | EI8AU | Bill O'Reilly (SK) | 101 | EI9FBB | Dave Deane |
| 256 | EI3GV | Brendan de hÓra | | | |
| 253 | EI4GK | Sean Donelan | 12m | | No entry |
| 206 | EI9FBB | Dave Deane | | | |
| 186 | EI7II | Albert Kleyn | 10m | | |
| 180 | EI2JD | Thos Caffrey | 134 | EI4BZ | Dave Moore (+2) |
| 177 | EI9FE | Mike Hoare | 128 | EI4GK | Sean Donelan |
| 166 | EI7GL | John Desmond | 114 | EI2JD | Thos Caffrey |
| 165 | EI2CH | Gerry Morgan | 113 | EI7GL | John Desmond |
| 157 | EI7BA | John Tait (+10) | | | |
| 147 | EI4BZ | Dave Moore (+3) | 6m | | |
| 127 | EI8IU | Brian Canning | 150 | EI3IO | Dave Court (+41) |
| 119 | EI4HH | Jim Holohan | 104 | EI7GL | John Desmond |
| 118 | EI9JF | Nicki Mullally | 101 | EI3EBB | Alan Foley |
| 114 | EI4EX | Hugh McCormack (SK) | | | |
| 105 | EI9HX | Pat O'Connor | 2m | | No entry |
| 105 | EI1CS | Rev Finbarr Buckley | | | |
| 102 | EI9HQ | Declan Lennon | QRP DXCC | | No Entry |
| 101 | EI3IP | Sean Ó Súilleabháin | | | |
| 100 | EI6HB | Denis O'Flynn (New) | | | |

DXCC Challenge

1357 EI7CC Peter Ball

DXCC Honor Roll

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Mixed | | | |
| 345 | EI7CC | Peter Ball | (+1) |
| 340 | EI2GS | Frank O'Brien | |
| 334 | EI6FR | Declan Craig | |
| Phone | | | |
| 343 | EI7CC | Peter Ball | |
| 338 | EI2GS | Frank O'Brien | |

New entrants & updates are in bold.

5 Band DXCC award holders are not listed by ARRL. If you have the 5BDXCC or know of someone who has, please let us know. Holders known to us are EI8EI (SK), EI6S, EI8AR and EI4BZ.

Galway Radio Experimenters Club, EI4GRC

The Maam Turks 2007

As is traditional now, the Galway Radio Experimenters Club had been asked to man radio checkpoints on the Maam Turks walk. The event was held on Saturday 14th of April on a ridge of mountain between Maam Cross and Leenane, Connemara, Co. Galway called The Maam Turks.

There was not a cloud in the sky, a light breeze and temperatures in the high teens with a little haze, a better day for the walk could not be remembered in years. In an effort to allow more people a chance to do the 15 mile walk the Galway Mountaineering Club set the official starting time back an hour to 0500 and 106 walkers started out between 0500 and 0700.

By 0615 our base station was set up and in communication with Checkpoint One who were on station since the previous night and already receiving the first of the runners by then.

In total there are 8 hill top checkpoints, 3 finish locations and a control station manned through out the day.

With only 15 walkers retiring at Finish One due to fatigue and swollen knees and 6 walkers not making the half way cut off time, we had a total of 85 successfully completing the event. Thankfully there were no casualty's and everybody had an enjoyable day.

The first man finished ran the event in 6 hours 50 minutes and the last walker home was at 1910. Galway Mountain Rescue were also present and gave us a quick look at their new radios with built in APRS They promised to give a full demo on them in a few weeks.

Club members participating were Enda EI2II, Ronan EI8HJ, Kieran EI4FFB, Joe EI3HM, Nigel EI9JTt, Des EI5GT, Larry EI9CN, John EI8EU and Tom EI3ER.

Walk details are available at <http://www.simonstewart.ie/Turks/turk.htm> and some pictures available at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/croi/sets/72157600080207250/>

The Marconi Connection

Recently a retired Italian journalist called Concetto La Malfa has been making short documentaries on famous Italian people and their association with Ireland.

Concetto has lived in Ireland for many years as a correspondent for Italian media and is currently making a piece on the Marconi connection through the country.

On Saturday March 31st Enda EI2II brought Concetto and a small group to the Marconi Site in Derrygimlagh, Clifden where he conducted interviews with locals and a historian with regards to the station.

In October the Galway Radio Experimenters Group is intending to have a station in the Derrygimlagh reign to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 1st commercial service between Europe and North America in 1907.

They have teamed up with the Marconi Society in Nova Scotia in a joint effort. They are also expecting Electra Marconi and her son to attend the event.

The Galway Radio Experimenters Group were active from Clifden this year for the international Marconi Day event on the 28th of April using the call EI4IMD. They had a portable station setup on the edge of Derrygimlagh bog 600 meters from the original Marconi transmitter site



In the Pub
Nigel EI9JT, Ronan EI8HJ, Enda EI2II, Tom EI3ER



Radio Checkpoint 578
Mike, Tom EI3ER and Kris with the Polish flag on the colinear



Finish 3
John EI8EU and Tom EI3ER

Limerick Radio Club to Participate in Transatlantic Re-Enactment Flight 1937-2007 from Newfoundland, Canada to Foynes, Ireland

On 5th July 1937 the first transatlantic commercial passenger survey flight took place from Botwood, Newfoundland and flew to Foynes, Ireland.

The Pan American Sikorsky S-42 B Flying Boat "Clipper III" was piloted by Captain Harold Gatty and six crew.

To commemorate the 70th anniversary of this amazing event a special re-enactment flight is planned by Captain Patrick White and his son Ian.

Mr. White has many years of flight experience as a pilot of flying boats. His family own and operate an active and growing multi-disciplined aviation company at the Gander International Airport.

Patrick and Ian will be flying their "Vintage Lady", a PBY Catalina Flying Boat, from Botwood, Newfoundland on the 5th July, landing at Foynes on the 6th July.

The arrival of the "Vintage Lady" will kick off the Foynes International Flying Boat Festival from 6th to the 8th of July 2007.

The return flight is scheduled for the 1st August, arriving in time for the start of the Flying Boat International Festival in Botwood/Norris Arm and the Festival of Flight in Gander Newfoundland.

Special Event Station EI70FOY

Limerick Radio Club, founded in 1946, has been invited by the Foynes Flying-Boat Museum to operate a special Amateur Radio Station in conjunction with the commemorative flight and the Festival.

A special call-sign, EI70FOY has been allocated to the station. The station will be on the air from 6th to the 8th of July 2007.

On HF, the station will operate from 80 to 10 metres.

It will also operate on VHF / UHF and Echolink, using the above call-sign.

A special QSL card, commemorating the Re-Enactment Flight, will be sent to all stations worked over the three-day event.

QSL Information:

All QSL cards should be sent to the Club's QSL Manager Alan Cronin EI8EM @ QTHR.

Limerick Radio Club can be contacted at ei4lrc@eircom.net or at <http://www.qsl.net/ei4lrc>

FOYNES, IRELAND

Foynes, Ireland, located in the Shannon Estuary, became the centre for international aviation activities on the North Atlantic from 1939 to 1945.

On July 9th 1939, Pan Am's luxury Flying Boat, the "Yankee Clipper" landed at Foynes. This was the first commercial passenger flight on a direct route from the USA to Europe.

During the late 1930s and early 1940s, this quiet little town, on the River Shannon, became the focal point for air traffic on the North Atlantic.

The era of the flying boats was colorful but brief.

In 1945, hundreds of people watched as Captain Charles Blair (late husband of Maureen O'Hara Blair) piloted the last Ameri-



The world's only Boeing B-314 Full Scale Model on display at the Foynes Flying Boat Museum, Foynes, Co. Limerick.

can Export flying boat out of Foynes to New York.

Upon arrival, he turned around within a few hours - this time flying the first commercial land-plane, a DC-4, on its inaugural transatlantic flight to the new airport at Rineanna, Ireland, later known as Shannon International Airport.

Shortly afterwards Pan Am, having made 2,097 Atlantic crossings through Foynes, made its last flying-boat flight to Lisbon from Foynes.

This brought the exciting flying boat era at Foynes to an end.

Foynes Flying Boat Museum.

<http://www.flyingboatmuseum.com/>

Transatlantic Flight Re-Enactment

<http://www.transatlanticflightpby.com/contact.php>

Limerick Radio Club can be contacted at ei4lrc@eircom.net or at <http://www.qsl.net/ei4lrc>

EI60LRC

Limerick Radio Club is QRV as EI60LRC until the end of the year to mark 60 years since the club's foundation.

Awards presented at the 2007 AGM

IRTS DX Trophy

Leading EI single operator in the annual IOTA contest

Paul O'Kane, EI5DI

Hal Hodgens Trophy

Top scoring EI station in the 12 hour CW section of the IOTA contest

Barry Merrill, EI/W5GN

IRTS IOTA Trophy

Leading island (EJ) DX-pedition station in the annual IOTA contest

Bere Island Group, EJ2MT

Pete Daly Memorial Cup

Winning station in the open section of the IRTS CW Field Day
(not contested)

Paddy Smyth Memorial Cup

Leading station in the restricted section of the IRTS CW Field Day

South Dublin Radio Club, EI2SDR

Paddy Daly Microphone

Winning station in the open section of the IRTS SSB Field Day
(not contested)

IRTS HF Shield

Leading station in the restricted section of the IRTS SSB Field Day

Shannon Basin Radio Club, EI3Z

Thomond Trophy

Winning station in the open section of the IRTS VHF/UHF Field Day
(not contested)

Shandon Trophy

Top station in the restricted section of the IRTS VHF/UHF Field Day

Galway Radio Experimenters Club, EI4GRC

Tom Donnellan Cup

Top EI station in the CW single op section of the CQWW DX contest

Peter Ball, EI7CC

Arup Cup

Exceptional service to the Society or to Amateur Radio

Conor O'Neill, EI4JN

Michael Collins Memorial Trophy

Exceptional service to the Society or to Amateur Radio

Eamon Shelton, EI9GQ

Pat Conway Perpetual Memorial Trophy

Exceptional service to the Society or to Amateur Radio

**AFRI75 DXpedition Team,
EI2CA EI7CC EI8CE GI4FUM EI4DJB EI3GV & GI4VIV**

Sheila Piper Cup

Service to the IRTS News Service

David Deane, EI9FBB

The President's Cup

Presented at the discretion of the President of the Society

Peter Grant, EI4HX

Folan Shield

For home constructed equipment

Tony Breathnach, EI5EM

Kevin Freeny Trophy

For proficiency in equipment construction

Tony Breathnach, EI5EM

Ian Morris Memorial Trophy

SWL with the highest number of DXCC entities in the previous calendar year

(no entry)

EI7IQ National 6 Metre Shield

Leading EI/EJ IRTS member for 6 metre activity in the previous calendar year

Charles Coughlan, EI5FK

EI7IQ National 4 Metre Shield

Leading EI/EJ IRTS member for 4 metre activity in the previous calendar year

David Court, EI3IO

Slievenamon Shield

Leading EI station operating FM on 70cms during July

(no entry)

Dubus Magazine

IRTS has been appointed as the Irish distributor for the DUBUS Magazine, a quarterly magazine for VHF, UHF and Microwave enthusiasts.

This is a publication that no serious VHF/UHF/Microwave operator should be without. The latest issue runs to 132 pages in A5 format and is full of both technical and operating articles from all over the world.

The annual subscription is €22.00 and should be forwarded to:

Dave Moore, EI4BZ,

The Marconi Radio Group Amateur Radio Rally on Sunday 29th July at the Manor Hotel in Ballymoney

More information from

Melvyn MI0MSR at 07821129405

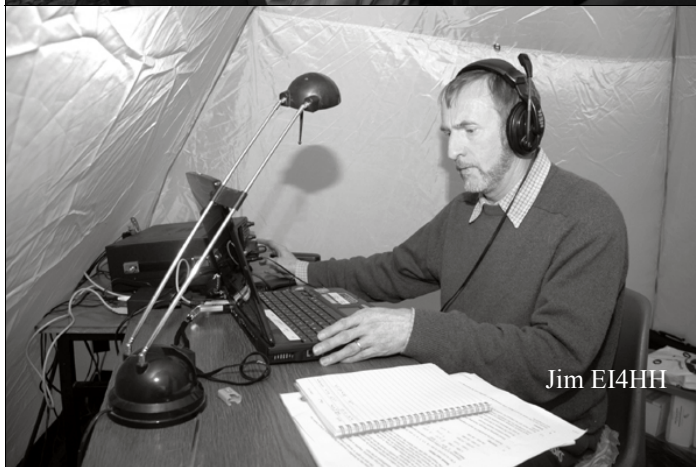
melvyn.irvine225@btinternet.com

Doors open at 12 noon.

CW Field Day 2007 Garbally College, Ballinasloe



Niall EI4CF



Jim EI4HH



Brian EI8IU



Pat EI9HX

(Continued from page 6)

he added 4L4WW, DG4IAN & HV0A.

12m worked 9K2HN, EA8BED, HV0A & HZ1IK. Same antenna on **17m** netted SV9CCY, ON4HIL, YV5SSB, WP4SK & 9K2CQ. Using a MQ24SR beam antenna logged the following 15M contacts K0TV, VY2TT, VO1OTA, 6Y1V, XT2SE, EA8LS, ZY7C, PY5HOT, FY1FL, ZF1A, ZY100S, HR9BFS, ZW4O, D44AC & 7X4AN while **20m** netted T96C, ZB2/4O3AL, HV0A, W0ZT (North Dakota) RT9W, TO6T, ZF2AH, OH0JFP, ZA/UT7DW, ZY100S, CN8ZG, 8P1A, P40W, WP2Z, IS0AFM, ER/RW3AH, 6W/IZ2DPX, FS5HL, 1B1AB, XE2WWW, 7S100ALA, ZP8VAO, TK/IK1YED & 4U1UN. Using an 80M dipole logged the following **40m** QSO's Z32IS, EA9LZ, 5D5A, HI3C, CT6A, LX8M, 6W/IZ2DPX & LX/EI6JK while **80m** netted LX1HZ, 9A2YM, IA6IPY, 7X2EB, LX2007L, CN2R, 5B/LZ2HM, 4O3B, LY4Q, CQ9K, MM0SJH, CQ0ODX, SJ9WL & GB100T (Isle of Man TT races)

Again, I'd like to thank **Eoin, EI9O**, who also submitted his log from Feb-April. Using a Kenwood, TS830S into an 80M dipole antenna for all bands worked, ST2KSS-100, SV9CVY & IW9HII on **15m**. Being busy on **17m** he netted ; 3DA0DJ, 3XM6JR, A45WD, CU2CR, RU9VA, VE3GI, WD8CCC, 6Y5BB, 7X/DB1JAW & CN2DX while **20m** logged 3V8BB, 4O6T, 4Z5KA, 5B4AHY, 5D5A, 9A9AA, AO5KB, BP100S, EA6AEI, HV0A, A61TX, ZP8VAO, VE1AD, IY0IMD, LU5EK, N4OX, OH2BET, PY7ZZ, SU1KA, T77M, T960ARR, TL57ALAY, YB8TAF, V25WY & ZA1E.

Many thanks to all who submitted their logs and special credit to W3UR (The Daily DX) for kind permission to replicate some exclusive paragraphs used here.

Best 73 to all, gud DX 'till the next issue.

W8HC announces Irish Amateur Radio Operation

On Saturday and Sunday, August 4 and 5, 2007 Hal W8HC will operate from Ballycastle as GI/W8HC/p. He will be also taking part in the annual Marconi Festival at Ballycastle with the Marconi Radio Group's MNØMRG special event station on Sunday, August 5. On Monday, August 6, Hal will ferry over to Rathlin Island (EU-122) 54°01-55°20N - 005°24-006°56W and operate from East Lighthouse (ARLS designator NTI 011).

Hal will arrive in Clifden on Wednesday, August 8 where he will operate as EI/W8HC/p at the Derrygimla site on Thursday and Friday, August 9-10. It is hoped that some operating time can also occur from nearby Letterfrack, site of an ancillary receive station built in 1912 to allow for full duplex operation of the transatlantic signals.

All QSOs will be confirmed via LOTW and special QSLs from each of these historic Marconi locations will be printed and sent via GlobalQSL (www.globalqsl.com).

A specially designed certificate will be issued to those stations making contact with both GI and EI operations from either Ballycastle or Rathlin and Derrygimla or Letterfrack. In keeping with the historic connection, **ALL** QSOs from these locations will be CW only.

Hal Turley, W8HC, 6 Ives Drive, Huntington, WV 25705
Phone: 304-736-2790 Email: mailto:w8hc@aol.com

Salvan: Cradle of Wireless: Guglielmo Marconi (1874-1937)

Ita Marguet, December 2006



Guglielmo Marconi, c. 1908.

Known as Father of Radio, Guglielmo Marconi was born in Bologna on 25 April 1874 into a wealthy Italian-Irish family. He died in Rome on 20 July 1937 when two minutes of silence were observed on radio waves worldwide as homage to the man recognized as inventor of the first practical radio system of wireless telegraphy.

International Marconi Day is celebrated each year on 25 April.

Marconi's mother, Annie Jameson, was the daughter of Andrew Jameson of the Dublin whiskey-distilling family of Daphne Castle, Co. Wexford. With his mother and older brother he spent his childhood in England, part of it in Bedford. He was educated privately at Bologna, Florence and Leghorn. From a young age Marconi developed a passion for the sciences and studied physics at the technical institute of Livorno and the University of Bologna.

ECHO Ireland Journal of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society, March/April 2006, reported that amateur stations operating from locations with historical connections to Marconi are granted Award Station Status.

To celebrate International Marconi Day, in 2006 the Cornish Amateur Radio Club organized broadcasts that included Dublin's Howth Martello Tower using the callsign EIOMAR.

Howth's Martello Tower was the scene of early wireless experiments by the Marconi Company when the HMS Monarch transmitted test signals from various locations in the Irish Sea. The receiving station in Howth measured and logged the Monarch's signals under various experimental conditions.

Used by the Post Office until the mid 1980s, the vacant tower became derelict until it was refurbished by the Fingal County Council in 2001. Re-opened in 2004 it has been given new life as "*Ye Olde Hurdy-Gurdy Museum of Vintage Radio*".

The museum has an on-site amateur radio station that goes on air most Sundays with the call-sign EIOMAR. In keeping with the history of the tower, most radio contacts are made by wireless telegraphy using Morse Code.

Marconi's life and work

Experiments and achievements of Guglielmo Marconi are extensively documented as are many national and international awards and distinctions that he received.

In 1909, with Karl Ferdinand Braun, he shared the Nobel Prize in Physics for important radio communications.

Michael Sexton's book 'MARCONI: The Irish Connection' adds to the vast corpus of professional and other literature about the pioneer of radio communication and inventor of the first practical system of wireless telegraphy.

Its foreword recognizes ... *that Marconi was more of a genius at spotting the potential that could be harnessed from the application of existing knowledge than he was an original inventor.* The pioneering work of illustrious scientists, physicists and mathematicians in Ireland and beyond enabled Guglielmo Marconi to advance in his experiments and patented inventions.

In 1894 Marconi was on vacation with his family in Andorno,

near Sanuario di Oropa in the Italian Alps. He learned of the death of Heinrich Hertz, and became fascinated by a technical article describing electromagnetic waves.

Marconi had lived in Leghorn, the main port of central Italy and right away foresaw that these waves would offer tremendous possibilities for maritime communications. He decided that he would "transmit a message without any metallic connection between transmitter and receiver". Marconi had seen Augusto Righi's equipment in the University of Bologna and probably started by repeating Hertz's experiments. It was the start of his early rudimentary efforts conducted at his father's estate of Villa Grifone near Bologna.

Following is a brief account of Guglielmo Marconi's visit to Salvan, Switzerland, in 1895 that has brought national and international recognition to the alpine town and its local surrounds.

Salvan: Cradle of Wireless

In 1965, inhabitants of Salvan, Switzerland, located above Martigny in the Mont Blanc region "remembered" that a senior citizen of their village had lived a very unusual experience seventy years before, when he was a young boy. A radio reporter was vacationing nearby and Maurice Gay-Balmaz, by then fifty years old, told him how he had met a "nice young man" who had arrived with heavy equipment along the mule path ascending from the Rhone valley. The recordings made at the time describe a crucial episode in the development of wireless communications, which was until then unknown to Marconi's "official" biographers.

Many inhabitants of Salvan told of this young gentleman, roaming around the rocky woods and steep meadows with a local boy, carrying odd machines, poles and flags, and the story remains part of the "collective memory" of the village. Maurice Gay-Balmaz testimony is remarkably detailed and precise describing, in a plausible way, how Marconi operated and it provides interesting information about what took place at that time.

In 1974 to celebrate the centenary of Marconi's birth the municipality of Salvan placed a plaque on the rock of "La Pierre Bergere" or the Shepherdess Stone. The plaque was unveiled a year later during a ceremony attended by numerous officials of the region and the Vice-Consul of Italy in Switzerland. A final consecration was made to celebrate the centenary of Marconi's visit in 1895 and a decision by the authorities to reenact his experiments.

With the support of Swiss Telecom PTT and the Swiss National Audiovision Museum, an exhibition was set up in the

(Continued on page 27)

(Continued from page 26)

village with early wireless and radio sets including a replica of Marconi's transmitter for visitors to experiment with the apparatus to see the sparks glow and hear the bell ring.

A Marconi trail was laid out to a number of places where signals had been received in 1895. The trail begins at the exhibition museum and ends at the house in Salvan where Marconi stayed.



Salvan: international recognition

On 26 September 2003, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) dedicated a "Historical Milestone" acknowledging some of the first wireless experiments conducted in 1895 by Guglielmo Marconi in Salvan, Switzerland.

A bronze plaque (Milestone IEEE) was placed at the site of the Shepherdess Stone that reads 'On this spot in 1895, with local assistance, Guglielmo Marconi carried out some of the first wireless experiments. He first transmitted a signal from this "Shepherdess Stone" over a few meters and later, following one and a half months of careful adjustments, over a distance

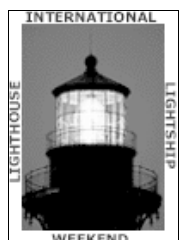
of up to one and a half kilometers. This was the beginning of Marconi's pivotal involvement in wireless radio'.

On 18 March 2005, the Salvan French-language journal, La Gazette, reported on a visit by a group of industrial leaders in the world of telecommunications accompanied by researchers from the European space agency and other academic and scientific institutions. Their visit to the Marconi Museum and the site of the Shepherdess Stone marked the conclusion of a European research colloquium held in Switzerland in which eighteen countries had participated. The report of the visit includes remarks by Yves Fournier with a photograph of some of the prestigious visitors and Yves Fournier, historian and President of the Salvan-Marconi Foundation.

February 2006 issue of an IEEE publication Microwave Journal, Vol. 49, No. 2 (pp.124-136) published a Special Report on *How Marconi Conducted Early Wireless Experiments in the Swiss Alps*. Authored by Fred Gardiol, Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne, and Yves Fournier, College de L'Abbaye, Saint-Maurice, Switzerland, it provides a full account of Guglielmo Marconi in Salvan and how it had become the theatre of a major event in the history of electrical engineering and of mankind. With several photographs and a long list of References, the Special Report is titled Salvan: Cradle of Wireless.

The Marconi Museum in Salvan, Switzerland is reported to have received 35,000 visitors in ten years. Through the Salvan-Marconi Foundation it is hoped to enhance its exhibition facilities during 2007.

Note: Acknowledgement is given to all sources of information used in preparation of this article. It follows published texts entitled Wireless telegraphy: Switzerland and Ireland (May 2005) and Ireland and Wireless Telegraphy: "Wave lengths of time" (December 2005) by Ita Marguet.



International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend

18th & 19th August 2007

The international Lighthouse/Lightship weekend has become one of the highlights of the year for amateur radio operators across the globe. The event helps promote public awareness of lighthouses and lightships and highlights the need for their preservation whilst raising the profile of amateur radio. This year's activity starts 0001 UTC on Saturday the 18th and finishes 2359 UTC Sunday the 19th August.

Space is, of course, limited in a lighthouse, therefore activity does not have to take place within the lighthouse itself.

However, the guidelines dictate that the amateur station should be set up at or adjacent to the chosen lighthouse, for example, in an adjoining field, in which case permission should be sought from the relevant land owners.

The event is NOT a contest, and the emphasis for the participants has always been to have fun, without the pressure to make a large numbers of contacts.

For further details and to register for the event,
Visit <http://illw.net>

The ILLW is an annual amateur radio event sponsored by the Ayr Amateur Radio Group, Scotland. www.gm0ayr.org

Outgoing QSL Bureau

Please mail your cards
directly to the
Outgoing Bureau Manager:

Anthony Baldwin

EI8JK,

Rathlin, Kilcrohane,

Co. Cork.

ei8jk@amsat.org

Worked all GI Award

1. The award is available to licensed Amateurs and SWL's (on a heard basis).
2. All bands 1.8 - 1296MHz.
3. QSL cards must be held for valid contacts on or after 1st January 1979.
4. Contacts via terrestrial repeaters, the internet (Echolink, Eqso etc) are not valid for the award.
5. These will be endorsed:-
 - a. Mode: CW, SSB, RTTY, MIXED, etc.
 - b. Band: HF or VHF (But not a mixture of both).
6. A checklist of of QSL's set put in logbook form and certified by two licenced Amateurs or photocopies of QSL's must be submitted with all applications. DO NOT SEND QSL'S.
7. The cost is:-

Europe: £5:00 or 10 IRC's.
 Rest of the World: £6:00, \$10.00 Or 14 IRC's
 Payment must accompany all applications.
 Cheques should be made payable to:
 Bangor and District A.R.S.
8. Northern Ireland consists of six counties: Londonderry, Antrim, Fermanagh, Down, Tyrone and Armagh.
 (Note the City of Belfast is divided by the River Lagan into counties, Antrim and Down).
9. Stations in Europe require 18 contacts in total:
 4 from each of counties Antrim and Down and 2 from each of the remaining four counties.

 Stations from outside Europe require 8 contacts in total:
 2 from each of counties Antrim and Down and 1 from each of the remaining four counties.
10. Applications should be sent to:

The Award Manager (WAGI)
 Roy Smyth GI4CBG
 58 Gilnahirk Road
 Belfast BT5 7DH
 Northern Ireland

6 Metre SSB Net

A six metre net meets on the first Monday of each month on 50.135 SSB (horizontal polarisation) at 2100 (local).

Activity seems to be primarily in the Munster (south-west) area but all are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Frequency: 50.135 MHz
 Mode: SSB
 Date: First Monday of each month



Reading the Mail

By

Michael McNamara, EI2CL

Welcome to compilation #46 of "Reading the Mail", an account of IRTS incoming QSL Bureau activity from 28 January to 1 April 2007.

Small packets (less than 1 kg) came from ARA, ARABiH, EA5RM, EDR, KARS, LCRA x2, PY5 and PT7-buro, RSB, SARA, SRR, UK8-buro and YO9-buro.
 Heavier lots came from ARRL, REP, RSGB, SRR (2kg each), ARI, PZK, RSGB (3.9 kg each), CRC (5.9 kg) and the usual DARC heavyweight (9.7kg).

Cards from the following were thought worthy of mention:
 A25/DL7CM, DL500KHZ, DR2006O, EK0B, ET3TK, R300BF, RU3BY/6 Chechnya, S01R, UA8TWW/p, V8FVV, YI9B4E, YS3/I2JIN, ZV7AA, 6O0N, 7Q7MM and 7Z1UG,
 For IOTA chasers, notables were BX3/DJ3KR, FO/N6JA, GB4CI, GS2UG, JW/CT1BWW, R1FJ, RU6DX/p, TB0DX, G6UW/TF, R19KM, S92BWW, V8JIM, VQ9X, YV5JBI/p, YV7QP, YW6P, YV0D, ZD8AD and ZD8ZA.
 Congratulations to all recipients.

With regard to the heavyweight from DARC, much of the contents consisted of cards from the Football World Cup 2006 special event stations in Germany.

I did not try to estimate the number of cards but it was clear that the special stations generated a lot of QSOs with stations in EI. In case members are not already aware, please note that a QSL in return is not required; it says so on the cards! With that, and until my next report, all best wishes and lots of nice DX.

Michael McNamara, EI2CL



Members Advertisements

For Sale:

AR5000 fitted with analogue voice inverter and as 5000.
Neim 1031 DSP noise eliminating in line module.
Yaesu FC20 external Auto ATU.
Phone 061-397004

For Sale:

Icom 275H 100 watt 2m multimode base station rig, as new.
12 Element M2 2m Yagi antenna.
Mutec GFBA 144E Masthead pre-amplifier.
Price €950.00 the lot.
Optibeam OB11-3 HF Tri-Band antenna 11 elements on 18' boom in perfect condition.
Price €700.00
Tel. 086-8213646

For Sale:

Yaesu FT-221R. 2m TRX with YC221 digital display. Mic and Manual. V.G.C. No Mods.
Yaesu FT736R CAT System. 50, 144, 430 MHz with tone squelched unit.
Keyer unit, 600Hz CW filter fitted.
Manuals, Boxed. No Mods, V.G.C.
Icom 737 HF TRX. FL53A and FL101 filters fitted. Manual. No Mods. V.G.C.
Offer to EI8BR at 01-2809382

Wanted:

Serious restorer of antiquated valve equipment seeks the circuit schematic of the KW2000A transceiver and mains power supply.
Phone calls to 01 2873528/087 6591233 or e-mail to crowleyted@eircom.net.

Wanted:

Tower to support HF Beam
eroddy4366@aol.com

Members advertisements are free

Contest Calendar

June 2007

| | | | |
|-------|-----------|-------------------------------|------------|
| 16/17 | 0000-2400 | All Asian DX | CW |
| 23/24 | 1200-1200 | H.M. King of Spain Contest | SSB |
| 23/24 | 1200-1200 | Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest | RTTY/PSK31 |
| 23/24 | 1400-1400 | Marconi Memorial Contest - HF | CW |
| 23/24 | 1800-2100 | ARRL Field Day | All |

July 2007

| | | | |
|-------|-----------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | 0000-2359 | RAC Canada Day Contest | CW/SSB |
| 7/8 | 1400-1400 | VHF/UHF Field Day | CW/SSB |
| 7/8 | 0000-2359 | Venezuelan Indep. Day Contest | CW/SSB |
| 7/8 | 1100-1059 | DL-DX RTTY Contest | RTTY/PSK31/PSK63 |
| 14/15 | 1200-1200 | IARU HF World C'Ship | CW/SSB |
| 21/22 | 1800-2100 | CQ W VHF Contest | All |
| 28/29 | 1200-1200 | RSGB IOTA Contest | CW/SSB |

August 2007

| | | | |
|-------|-----------|--------------------------|--------|
| 4 | 1200-2359 | European HF Championship | CW/SSB |
| 11/12 | 0000-2359 | Worked All Europe DX | CW |
| 25/26 | 1200-1159 | SCC RTTY Championship | RTTY |
| 25/26 | 1200-1200 | YO DX Contest | CW/SSB |

September 2007

| | | | |
|-------|-----------|-------------------------------|------|
| 1/2 | 1300-1259 | IARU Region 1 SSB Field Day | SSB |
| 1/2 | 0000-2400 | All Asian DX | SSB |
| 1 | 0000-2400 | Russian RTTY WW Contest | RTTY |
| 8/9 | 0000-2359 | Worked All Europe DX | SSB |
| 15/16 | 1200-1200 | Scandinavian Activity Contest | CW |
| 29/30 | 0000-2400 | CQ WW RTTY DX | RTTY |
| 29/30 | 1200-1200 | TOEC WW Grid Contest | CW |

For details of smaller contests and links to contest rules and results try the following:

WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

SM3CER Contest Service <http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/>

Squares Table 2007

| Callsign | 50 MHz | 70 MHz | 144 MHz | 432 MHz | 1296 MHz | Total |
|----------|--------|--------|---------|---------|----------|-------|
| EI2IP | 146 | 7 | 35 | 4 | 0 | 192 |
| EI2JD | 53 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 57 |
| EI3IX | 24 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 31 |
| EI7FAB | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 7 |
| EI7IG | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 5 |

This tables show the number of Maidenhead locator squares (e.g. IO63, IN88) worked by EI operators. Contacts via repeaters or satellites do not count, and no QSLs are required

Updates to VHF Manager - joe_fadden@yahoo.com

Irish Radio Transmitters Society

The Shop

www.irtssshop.com



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MFJ 949E tuner as new in box £90.00
Alinco DX70TH & separation lead all boxed, as new £380.00
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Yaesu FL2100 in good condition and works perfect .. £340.00
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a bargain at only £65.00
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/FC102 tuner etc...new never opened or used £150.00
MC80 in lovely condition ,boxed etc £65.00
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MFJ903 dip meter new and unused (old stock) £45.00
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new/unused now half price £100.00
Mirage KP-2/6 meters mast head pre-amp ...
new/unused now half price £100.00
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Icom IC910H, 2m/70cm Base, 100/75w output€1,099.00
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Uniden Bearcat 3300XLT 1000 ch, 25-1300MHz.
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Yaesu MD200A8X Desk Mic for FT2000/9000.....€299.00
Uniden Oceanus Marine VHF, 25w, US & international.....€139.00
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NOW IN STOCK:
IC-R9500



Icom Inc. have recently launched the new 'top of the range' IC-R9500 wideband base station receiver at the Tokyo Ham Fair 2006. As the successor to the world-renowned IC-R9000/L, there will be a lot of interest from this ultra-wide band receiver that covers 0.005-3335MHz-frequency range and features technology that is based on and surpasses the IC-7800.



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SPID ROTATORS



These Rotators represent excellent Value for Money and are Applicable for lightweight constructions as for example Yagi, also can be used for weighty short wave antennas. Mechanical part consists of worm gear with worm and wormwheel, made from steel (as shown on the picture). Applied solutions guarantees long, continuous work and high reliability. The advantage is possibility of alignment of worm and wormwheel holding down, which makes it possible to eliminate side play in driving gear, which can appear after long usage time. The surface is painted with anti-corrosion paint.

More Reasons to buy a Sat - Nav System:

Ireland is now practically fully mapped. City Navigator Version 9 has detailed mapping for small towns and built up areas alike.. (If you already have a Garmin GPS, log onto www.garmin.com and order your update CD).

Bluetooth Technology is now built into many units.. This enables you to use it as a Handsfree Mobile Phone Kit. The very latest versions have an FM transmitter which transmits the sound to the car stereo speakers.

The GARMIN NUVI from €390 including VAT:
Pre-loaded Mapping for Ireland & England **OR** Europe; Turn by turn Voice Guidance; MP3 Player
Sunlight readable Touch Screen; No Installation

Handsfree Bluetooth capability (**NOT on 300 and 350 Versions**) FM Transmitter (**670 ONLY**)



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